

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF  
ELECTRICAL WORKERS**



**LOCAL 99**

**Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.**  
Business Manager

**Wayne A. Tait**  
President

3.30.26

Representative Arthur J. Corvese  
Chairman House Labor Committee  
RI State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
VIA Email: HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov

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**RE: Support H-7969 AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY**

Dear Chairman Corvese,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent over 1000 men and women who provide their skills through our vast network of signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also serve as one, if not the only, voice of the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I am writing to you today in **support of H-7969**

It is well known that labor unions provide the best wages, benefits and working conditions for their members and help elevate those who are not as fortunate. As I often tell my membership, none of those union achievements matter if you are maimed or killed on the job.

There have been many attempts to erode OSHA since the act was signed into law by President Nixon in 1970. The opponents often cite regulatory burdens and hindering economic growth as why to destroy OSHA. When workers are regarded as you would a piece of equipment that can simply be replaced when it breaks, then I would say we have lost our way in the past 50 years.

Workers are not inanimate objects that you can pull off the shelf at the local box store, they are important and deserve protections so they can live a productive life unharmed. We vehemently oppose any reduction in any workers protections and strongly support this gallant effort to assure Rhode Island's commitment to those who do the work, regardless of those in Washington who reduce the value of workers lives to a line on a balance sheet.

In conclusion, we **support H-7969** for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr / Business Manager  
cc:  
Jimmy DeCastro / Committee Clerk  
Committee Members  
Paul MacDonald / IBEW Local 99 Lobbyist  
BuildRI  
RI AFL-CIO