

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese, Chair
House Labor Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE BILL 8465 -- AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- STATE PURCHASES

Dear Chairman Corvese and Honorable Committee Members,

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 8465 relating to public works projects and contractor certification requirements for glazing work. The League represents all 39 cities and towns across Rhode Island and advocates on behalf of municipal governments and taxpayers statewide.

The League appreciates the intent of this legislation to promote quality workmanship, worker training, and professional standards on public construction projects. Ensuring that public buildings are constructed and renovated safely and effectively is a shared priority of municipalities across the state. Cities and towns make substantial investments in public facilities, schools, public safety buildings, libraries, and other infrastructure, and they value strong standards that help protect those investments.

However, the League respectfully notes that the bill's newly expanded applicability language expressly includes municipalities, school committees, and other political subdivisions within the definition of covered public works projects. As drafted, the proposal would apply regardless of funding source or procurement method, provided the project meets the monetary thresholds established in the legislation.

Because many municipal capital projects involve some level of glazing work, such as window replacement, doors, storefront systems, skylights, or related building components, the League recognizes that this measure could have broader local impacts than may initially be apparent. Municipalities may experience increased project costs if the pool of eligible contractors is narrowed, along with possible scheduling challenges or procurement delays depending on workforce availability and market capacity.

For local governments already managing significant infrastructure needs and constrained capital budgets, even modest increases in project costs can affect project timing, scope, and taxpayers, particularly for school renovation and municipal building improvement projects.

Accordingly, while the League appreciates the goals of this legislation, we respectfully request consideration of amendments to better balance the bill's objectives with local operational realities and reduce unintended burdens on municipalities, including:

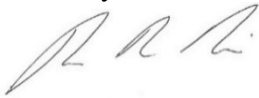
- Limit applicability to projects that are state-funded or receiving substantial state financial assistance.

- If the bill is intended to apply more broadly, provide exemptions for emergency repairs and urgent public safety work.
- Establish higher applicability thresholds for municipal and school projects so routine local capital improvements are not unintentionally captured.
- Include state reimbursement or other fiscal support to offset any added local costs associated with compliance.

The League welcomes continued dialogue with the sponsors and the General Assembly to identify an approach that advances quality construction standards while recognizing the fiscal realities facing Rhode Island's cities and towns.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective and for your continued partnership with Rhode Island's municipalities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Labor Committee