

Michael F. Sabitoni  
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May 21, 2025

Hon. Stephen Casey  
Chair  
House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing  
[HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov)

**Re: Support of HB 5687; An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Energy Facility Siting Act**

Dear Chair Casey,

The Rhode Island Building & Construction Trades Council represents seventeen (17) local unions and approximately 10,000 members. On behalf of our members and our leadership team, I write in support of the above referred to legislation for the reasons that follow.

These high-voltage lines on the Providence and East Providence waterfronts are a conspicuous impediment to the two cities capitalizing on enormous economic development potential. Burying them will create both short and long term economic development. In the immediacy, the legislation will create hundreds of job opportunities for skilled craftsmen and women of the Building Trades. Long term, this legislation will increase the value and attractiveness of the waterfront properties located in the nearby I-195 development parcels, the Fox Point Neighbor, and the newly available parcels around East Providence's Rumford and Riverside neighborhoods. This will make this real estate more attractive and therefore more likely to be developed in an expedient manner, putting construction workers to work and property on the tax rolls sooner.

It is my understanding that this approach has been a key ingredient in successfully transforming waterfronts in other mid-size cities. Chattanooga, Louisville, and San Antonio have buried shoreline wires transforming what were once industrial backwaters into highly successful waterfront attractions that draw millions of people.

This initiative will promote economic development. This is an excellent opportunity and on behalf of the members of unions of the Rhode Island Building & Construction Trades Council I urge you to move forward with this initiative.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and if I could get the courtesy of a reply I would appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Sabitoni  
President, Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council  
General Secretary-Treasurer, Laborers' International Union of North America