



**2026 EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Chair

Steve Noyes
PKF O'Connor Davies LLP

Chair Elect

Betty Robson
OIA Global

Secretary

Jean Harrington
Duffy & Sweeney, LTD

Treasurer

Michael Souza
Landmark Medical

Immediate Past Chair

Jennifer Morrison
Amica

Executive Committee

At-Large Member

Elizabeth McClaine
Neighborhood Health Plan RI

Amy Vogel
Dr. Day Care

Legal Counsel

Kelley O'Donnell, Esq.
Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP

President/CEO

Monika P. Zuluaga

March 24, 2026

The Honorable MaryAnn Shallcross Smith
House Committee on Small Business
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairwoman Shallcross Smith and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce (NRICC), which represents businesses in Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield, and Woonsocket, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of H.7570, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – The Rhode Island Center for Employee Ownership.

H.7570 creates the Center for Employee Ownership under the purview the State's Business Development Center. The mission of the Center is to create a network of technical support and service providers for businesses considering employee-owned business models.

While many business owners approach retirement with a clear succession plan, others have not considered what comes next. H.7570 provides an option by offering guidance on the legal, financial, and operational considerations involved in employee ownership conversions. At the same time, the Center could empower employees by providing support in developing business plans, understanding financing, and perhaps even preparing purchase proposals.

Establishing this Center would not only help retain local businesses and jobs, but also strengthen Rhode Island's economy by promoting stable, locally rooted enterprises.

For these reasons, the Northern RI Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges the Committee to support H.7570.

Respectfully,

Monika P. Zuluaga
President & CEO