

Michael F. Sabitoni
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April 30, 2026

Hon. Karen Alzate
c/o HouseSpecialLegislation@rilegislature.gov
Chair
House Special Legislation Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: **Support of House Bill 8474 – An Act Relating to the General Assembly – Permanent Joint Committee on Naming All New Buildings, Bridges, Edifices and Other State Constructions**

Dear Chair Alzate,

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 full support of naming the bridge over Smith Street and Route 95 "The George Nee Bridge". For decades, George Nee crossed this bridge while advocating relentlessly for working Rhode Islanders and their families.

Like so many in the labor movement, I stood shoulder to shoulder with George at the State House, on picket lines, and on job sites, fighting for living wages for our members, benefits that allow Rhode Islanders to retire with dignity, and policies such as making wage theft a felony and reforming the workers' compensation system to better serve those in need. His influence and impact are still felt throughout Rhode Island.

Naming "The George Nee Bridge" will create a lasting legacy worthy of George's contributions to the State of Rhode Island. As we continue to advocate for the labor movement and working families across the state, it will be an honor to walk the path he forged, now bearing his name.

Thank you for your consideration. On behalf of the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades, I strongly support the passage of HB 8474 and urge immediate passage.

Sincerely,

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