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3.10.26

Senator Robert Britto
Chair, Senate Commerce Committee
Rhode Island State House
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Re: Support for S 2346; An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government -- Rhode Island Commerce Corporation -- Qualified Data Centers Location Incentive

Support for S 2776; An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers -- Public Utilities Commission

Dear Senator Britto,

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 S 2346 and S 2776**

Data Centers are significant drivers of employment for electricians across our Nation. The developers of these project understand the need for industry standard wages, benefit and working conditions which provides respectable employment for skilled workers such as the men and women of Local 99.

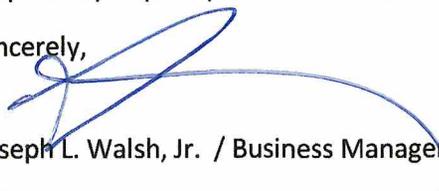
We of course also know that there is some concern with the cost to the municipalities and environmental concerns in the news as of late. I am excited that Revity Energy is the developer who has chosen to branch out into this market. As you may be aware, Revity worked with Labor and Environmentalists to forge the Solar Siting bill over several years. I would imagine you understand that any corporation willingly engaging in environmental concerns is a rare thing to see in today's world. Keeping with that vision, Revity has also addressed not only the environmental concerns but also the cost to others by also supporting S 2776.

Most of us have been impacted directly or indirectly by data breaches, myself included. Building a modern Data Center locally that can be utilized by banks, universities and medical facilities reduces the risk of data breaches that can happen when data is stored in another state or country. The facts are, data centers are being built, and will continue to be built, due to the demand of Americans we dictate by our actions.

It is a far better option to support a local developer, using local people to build in a socially responsible and environmentally conscious manner here at home than sending the jobs and revenue to another location where we would have no input or control of what was built, how it was built or by whom.

In conclusion, I believe caring about the environment is not a "my back yard question", it is a global question. Not approving this incentive will simply send the project elsewhere and remove any oversight that the majority of our elected officials have proven to be important to them and their constituents. With that, I again state out support for S 2346 and S 2776 and would respectfully request your sincere consideration.

Sincerely,


Joseph L. Walsh, Jr. / Business Manager

Cc:
Judy Sullivan / Committee Clerk
Paul Macdonald / Local 99 Lobbyist
Members of the committee
RI AFL CIO
BuildRI