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Rhode Island Works Best When We Say **UNION YES.**

June 21, 2021

Honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
 Rhode Island State House – Room 101

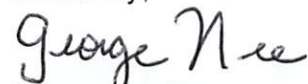
Dear Chairman Bennett and Honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

We write to you today on behalf of the 80,000 working men and women of the affiliated unions of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO in support of House Bill 6393, an act relating to public property and works - Corrosion Prevention and Mitigation Work Requirements. The proposed legislation requires that all corrosion prevention and mitigation work be performed by individuals certified by an independent third party such as The Society of Protective Coatings (SSPC) or the National Association of Civil Engineers (NACE), specifically, SSPC ACS-1/NACE No. 13 Industrial Coating and lining Application Specialist Qualification and Certification. We thank Representative Bennett and all sponsors of the bill and respectfully ask for your consideration of our position.

In the United States, the annual cost of corrosion is estimated at over \$450 billion dollars. A large portion of this cost is borne both directly and indirectly by state and local communities. Improperly maintained infrastructure robs municipalities of resources that impede community growth and economic development and reduces municipal capacity. When coatings are not properly installed, the municipality is forced to re-coat their infrastructure asset much sooner than the normal 15-20 year lifespan of a properly installed coating system.

As the nation and Rhode Island prepare to, in the words of President Biden, 'Build Back Better,' we must ensure that our state takes all necessary steps to make new infrastructure projects meet 21st Century standards. House Bill 6393 will help Rhode Island take the necessary steps to protect our investments in the future. Thank you for your consideration and we urge passage.

Sincerely,


 George H. Nee
 President


 Patrick M. Crowley
 Secretary-Treasurer