



**Champion Advocacy
Associates**

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Joseph Solomon
House Committee on Corporations
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Solomon and Committee Members:

ACEC-RI, which represents over fifty (50) engineering firms in Rhode Island employing 800 plus Rhode Island workers who provide engineering services to the State of Rhode Island, respectfully supports the passage of H.5157, An Act Relating to Military Affairs and Defense – Emergency Management, and asks that a friendly amendment be added. H.5157 is similar in intent to H.5155, a bill heard last week in your committee, in which ACEC-RI conveyed the same request.


In the event Rhode Island experiences a disaster affecting buildings or infrastructure, the state will need to call for volunteers, particularly from the field of architects and engineers. It is very likely the situation will pose a risk of physical danger to those who step forward to answer the call. H.5157 recognizes the risk and declares the professionals to be state employees, protected by workers' compensation and other benefits during the period these individuals are acting in a volunteer capacity for the state. It does not cover individuals working for payment.

ACEC-RI asks this committee to add one word on Page 2, Line 9 of the bill. To ensure clarity that engineers are covered, we ask that Line 9 be amended to read:

“mechanical, *engineering*, or other skill during a disaster emergency”

Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please contact me at 401-374-0456.

Respectfully,


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