



LIUNA!

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March 31, 2025

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Hon. Joseph J. Solomon
Chairperson, House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
c/o: HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov

Re: Support for H 5576 Utility Thermal Energy Network and Jobs Act

Dear Chairperson Solomon:

On behalf of the over 10,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) in Rhode Island, I write in **SUPPORT** of **H 5576 Utility Thermal Energy Network and Jobs Act**. This legislation invests in renewable thermal energy networks, a clean, efficient, alternative energy source to significantly reduce emissions without adding stress to our power grid. Geothermal energy can provide reliable energy directly from the ground. Our union strongly supports an all-of-the-above approach to energy availability and reliability, and there is great potential for geothermal to fit into this mix.

Critically, this bill protects and supports workers, who we currently represent in the fossil fuel industry, by ensuring we can apply our existing skills to jobs in the renewable energy sector. It promotes a level playing field, the potential for project labor agreements, and opens pathways to family-supporting careers through registered apprenticeship and training programs. This legislation is a first step to a just transition for the men and women who skillfully build and service our energy systems.

Our members and their families are the backbone of the State of Rhode Island. And together, we will always stand on the side of reliable, affordable energy that creates family-supporting jobs. I respectfully ask the committee to **SUPPORT** this legislation. Thank you in advance for your consideration and your attention to so many issues that affect our members.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

DONATO A. BIANCO, JR.
Vice President
and New England Regional Manager

DAB/al

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