

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS**



LOCAL 99

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
Business Manager

Wayne A. Tait
President

22 Amflex Drive
Cranston, RI 02921
P: (401) 946-9900
F: (401) 946-9907
www.IBEW99.org

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Via Email HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: Support Article 3, Section 15

Dear Chairman Abney,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent now over 1000 men and women who provide their skills through our partnership 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 submit my strong support of the State Facilities Benchmarking and Performance Standards Program included in **Article 3, Section 15** of the budget, and I urge the committee to keep this funding intact.

This budget allocation is an important investment into Rhode Island's climate goals and the men and women who do the work. By requiring state-owned and occupied buildings over 25,000 square feet to track and reduce their emissions, the state is committing to a long-term pipeline of work for skilled tradespeople in energy efficiency, HVAC, mechanical, electrical, and building operations. Equally as important is this budget allocation demonstrates our commitment to creating a cleaner and healthier environment for all of our citizens.

The debate is over as to if our earth is changing around us, with or without our consent. Programs such as this are easy lifts to assure the planet we love does not become some distant memory only remembered in stories we will tell our grandchildren of what once was.

I urge you to support and maintain this budget allocation and ensure that this program moves forward as designed. Thank you for your time and consideration. As always, I am available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr. / Business Manager-Financial Secretary

CC:

Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk
Committee Members
Paul Macdonald, IBEW Local 99 Lobbyist
Climate Jobs Rhode Island
RI AFL-CIO