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February 1, 2024

Representative Arthur J. Corvese  
Deputy Majority Leader  
Chair, House Labor Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Corvese,

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Finishing Trades Institute (IFTI) to express our full support for Rhode Island 2024 - H 7105 ("H 7105"), an important legislative act focused on the mandatory employment of North American Contractor Certification (NACC) certified companies and architectural glass and metal technician (AGMT) certified workers in specific public works renovation projects.

The IFTI, much like the IUPAT, was in strong favor of Rhode Island 2023 - H 5074 last year. This pioneering legislation established the need for skilled, trained, and certified contractors and workers in the glazing and glasswork sectors for public works renovation projects. Rhode Island, as an early adopter of this kind of regulation, has set a commendable example nationally, paving the way for safer construction environments, enhanced efficiency in building projects, and a more judicious allocation of taxpayer funds. H 7105 builds on these foundations, providing a framework for the enforcement of the standards set by the previous bill.

The act proposes a procedural mechanism under the Department of Labor & Training to guarantee compliance with the mandates outlined in Rhode Island General Laws Section 37-2-82. Furthermore, it introduces a fair system for the hearing and resolution of any allegations of violations. This approach, mirroring the one employed in licensing violation cases, is both proven and effective. We believe that it will promote consistency in enforcement and ensure transparency.

By mandating the use of NACC certified contractors and AGMT certified workers in public projects, we are not only reducing the risk of failures and enhancing overall worker safety, but also ensuring the optimal installation of products for maximum energy efficiency and ensuring that the taxpayers funding these projects are getting what they pay for. However, such requirements necessitate clear, enforceable guidelines to fully realize their intended benefits. H 7105 addresses this need by proposing the necessary enforcement framework, filling a gap left by the previous legislation.

Thus, I respectfully urge your support for H 7105, as it is a crucial step towards realizing our shared vision of excellence and safety in public works projects.



Anton P. Ruesing, V  
Executive Director  
International Finishing Trades Institute / Labor Management Cooperation Initiative

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