



# SINAPI LAW ASSOCIATES, LTD.

Richard A. Sinapi, Esq.  
Stephanie P. McConkey, Esq.\*  
Danilo A. Borgas, Esq.\*

Anthony E. Sinapi, Esq.\*  
Gregory A. Mancini, Esq., of counsel\*  
\*admitted in MA

June 14, 2016

**VIA HAND DELIVERY AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Ms. Luly Massaro  
State of Rhode Island Public Utilities and Carriers  
89 Jefferson Blvd.  
Warwick, RI 02888

**Re: Intervenor Testimony from Michael F. Sabitoni, President of the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council for Docket No. 4609**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf of Intervenor Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council, please find enclosed an original and nine (9) copies of the Council's president, Michael Sabitoni's direct testimony.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
Gregory A. Mancini

cc: Email Service List  
Client

1   **I.       INTRODUCTION**

2           **Q.       Please state your name, position and business address.**

3           **A.**     My name is Michael F. Sabitoni. I am President of the Rhode Island Building and  
4                   Construction Trades Council. My business address is 410 South Main Street,  
5                   Providence, RI 02903.

6           **Q.       Would you please summarize your professional background and experience?**

7           **A.**     I am a third-generation Laborer. I began my career with the Laborers'  
8                   International Union of North America (LIUNA) when I joined Providence, Rhode  
9                   Island's Laborers' Local Union 271 in 1988. Soon after joining the ranks of the  
10                  local, I worked my way up to become a general foreman and steward while  
11                  attending the Community College of Rhode Island and Bryant University at night.  
12                  In 2000, I became a Construction Marketing Representative for the LIUNA  
13                  National LECET Fund where I tracked construction projects in the Northeast and  
14                  solicited union contractors to bid on new projects. In 2003, I was appointed Field  
15                  Representative for Local Union 271. In 2005, I was appointed to the position of  
16                  Business Manager of that Local and was subsequently elected to that position in  
17                  2007. In 2007, I was elected President of the Rhode Island Building and  
18                  Construction Trades Council ("RIBCTC"). My summary biography is appended  
19                  as Attachment 1 to my testimony.

20          **Q.       Would you please describe the organization, membership and purpose of the**  
21                  **entity on whose behalf you are providing testimony?**

22          **A.**     The RIBCTC is a voluntary federation of sixteen (16) local unions dedicated to  
23                  improving the lives of working men and women in the construction industry by

1 assisting them in finding good quality jobs that provide fairness and dignity in the  
2 workplace and securing social equity. The members of the council have been  
3 involved in every major construction initiative—private or public—undertaken in  
4 and around the State of Rhode Island in the last seventy (70) years. Cumulatively,  
5 the individual unions represent approximately 9,000 active and retired workers in  
6 and around the Rhode Island area. In addition, RIBCTC member unions have the  
7 ability to draw upon a regional workforce in excess of 37,000. RIBCTC member  
8 unions include Boilermakers Local No.29, Bricklayers Local No. 1, Carpenters  
9 Local No. 94, Elevator Workers Local No. 39, Glaziers Local No. 1333, Heat &  
10 Frost Insulators Local No. 6, IBEW Local No.99, Iron Workers Local No. 37,  
11 Laborers' Local 271, Plasterers & Cement Masons No. 40, Painters Local No.  
12 195, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local No. 51, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.  
13 33, Sheet metal Workers Local No. 17, Sprinkler Fitters Local No. 676, and  
14 Teamsters Local No. 251. RIBCTC'S principal office is located at 410 South  
15 Main Street, Providence, RI 02903.

## 16 **II. POSITION OF ORGANIZATION**

17 **Q. What is the position of your organization with respect to these proceedings?**

18 A. The RIBCTC has been granted Intervenor status in this proceeding.

19 **Q. Why did your organization Intervene in these proceedings?**

20 A. If approved, this project will be constructed by hundreds of uniquely qualified  
21 skilled craftsmen and women from the sixteen (16) unions of the RIBCTC. Most  
22 of these workers will be from the local area. In most instances, these workers will  
23 be deriving one-hundred percent (100%) of their household income from working

1 on this facility. Accordingly, no group of Rhode Island residents has a stronger  
2 economic and/or socio-economic interest in supporting and facilitating the  
3 approval of the application to construct the Clear River Energy Center in  
4 Burrillville, Rhode Island.

### 5 **III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT**

6 **Q. How many and what types of jobs are projected to be created by the project?**

7 **A.** This project will support the creation of approximately 660 full-time construction  
8 jobs per year from 2017-2019.

9 **Q. How would approval of this project affect your members?**

10 **A.** Approval of this project will create hundreds of well-paying construction jobs for  
11 the members of the RIBCTC, most of whom will be from the Rhode Island area.  
12 Each one of these jobs will pay at least \$60,000 in wages and another \$30,000 in  
13 health and retirement benefits. These jobs will not only be well-paying, by  
14 construction industry standards, they will also last for an unusually long time.

15 **Q. How would approval of this project provide a socio-economic benefit to this**  
16 **state?**

17 **A.** Based on preliminary estimates of the size of this project as well as the  
18 marketplace at large, this project will probably account for 15-20% of the entire  
19 commercial construction market in the State of Rhode Island for two plus years.  
20 This will substantially increase the economic and social progress of not only the  
21 workers employed on this project, and their families, but any other components of  
22 the economy that these workers and their families happen to touch and/or  
23 participate in. Lastly, the substantial income tax these well-paying jobs generate

1 will provide the State with significant additional income that will allow it to  
2 distribute these funds as it sees fit to improve the socio-economic progress of all  
3 the citizens of our State. Accordingly, the socio-economic impact of a project this  
4 size to the local construction industry and the State of Rhode Island is enormous.

#### 5 **IV. CONCLUSION**

6 **Q. Do you have anything further to add?**

7 **A.** This proposed project would benefit this state and its workforce enormously. It  
8 would stabilize, if not lower, local energy costs thereby making local businesses  
9 more competitive in the marketplace. Accordingly, the RIBCTC urges the  
10 expeditious review and approval of this project.

11 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

12 **A** Yes, it does.

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

## **MICHAEL F. SABITONI**

Michael F. Sabitoni is a second-generation Laborer who began his career with the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) when he joined Providence, Rhode Island's Construction and General Laborers' Local Union 271 in 1988. Soon after joining the ranks of the local, Mr. Sabitoni worked his way up to become a general foreman and steward while attending the Community College of Rhode Island and Bryant University at night.

In 1998, he joined the Laborers' New England Region Organizing Fund working on grassroots organizing campaigns throughout the region. Two years later in 2000, Mr. Sabitoni became a Construction Marketing Representative for the LIUNA National LECET Fund where he tracked construction projects in the Northeast and solicited union contractors to bid on new projects.

In 2003, Mr. Sabitoni's leadership skills and knowledge of the construction industry was recognized by Local Union 271's Executive Board and he was appointed as Field Representative for Local Union 271. In 2005 Mr. Sabitoni was unanimously appointed by Local Union 271's Executive Board to the position of Business Manager and was subsequently elected to that position in 2007. Under Mr. Sabitoni's leadership, Local Union 271's membership continues to expand and its market share numbers in the construction industry which are among the highest in the nation.

In 2007, Mr. Sabitoni's tireless leadership and commitment to working families was recognized by his fellow union leaders throughout the state when he was elected President of the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council, a position which he currently holds. Mr. Sabitoni also holds the position of Chairman of the Rhode Island Laborers' Pension Fund, the Rhode Island Laborers' Health and Welfare Fund and the Rhode Island Laborers' Annuity Fund. Along with those positions, he also serves as a Trustee on the New England Laborers' Training Trust Fund, the New England Laborers' Labor-Management Cooperation Trust and the New England Laborers' Health and Safety Fund.

In July 2012, Mr. Sabitoni's leadership was again recognized as he was unanimously appointed as the Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer of the Rhode Island Laborers' District Council representing over 10,000 members, in both the public and private sector.

Mr. Sabitoni and his wife Joyce currently reside in Johnson, Rhode Island with their children Michael, Matthew and Cameron.