



87 John Street, Providence, RI 02906
info@friendsofindiapointpark.org
www.friendsofindiapointpark.org
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfIndiaPointPark>

Recent Letters of Support for Burial of Providence-E. Providence Waterfront Power Lines

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Providence Mayor Angel Taveras
East Providence Waterfront District Commission
State Sen. Gayle Goldin and Rep. Chris Blazajewski
Providence City Council Majority Leader Seth Yurdin

ORGANIZATIONS

Presidents Paxson of Brown University, Maeda of RISD, Bowen of Johnson & Wales
Providence Preservation Society
RI Building and Construction Trades Council
Save the Bay
Fox Point Neighborhood Association
Friends of India Point Park

WATERFRONT DEVELOPERS

Churchill and Banks
Bowl Arts
Rhode Island Seafood Festival
Tockwotton on the Waterfront

Groups and Officials Supporting Burial in Previous Years

50 LOCAL AND STATEWIDE GROUPS AND OFFICIALS support burying the power lines on the Providence/East Providence waterfront, as indicated by statements issued by, among others:

Governor Carcieri, Lt. Governor Fogarty Attorney General Lynch, Sen. Chafee, Cong. Kennedy
Presidents of Brown, RISD, and Johnson and Wales
Providence and E. Providence Mayors and City Councils
Citizens associations from nine city neighborhoods, and many advocacy and professional groups

Providence Community Associations represent Fox Point, College Hill, Downtown, Cape Verdeans, the Jewelry District, West Broadway, the Southside, Summit, and South Main Street.

Business and Professional Associations include the Providence Tourism Council, Downtown Merchants Association, and American Institute of Architects, RI Chapter

Statewide Advocacy Organizations include Save the Bay, the Sierra Club, Preserve Rhode Island, the RI Tree Council, and the Conservation Law Foundation



Mayor of Providence

Angel Taveras

March 4, 2011

Nicholas Ucci
Secretary
Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Members of the Board:

The City of Providence supports the Underground Alignment of the E-183 Line from the Providence River at India Point Park to East Providence.

Community and political leaders have worked together tirelessly and found dedicated funds in excess of \$14 million. In addition to the funds raised, burying the power lines has broad support from city and state officials as well as the general public.

In these difficult economic times, it is incumbent on the City and the State to capitalize on our assets. This project would do so by enhancing the Capital region's waterfront, a signature landmark, for generations to come. Further, with the passage of the Open Space Bond, plans are underway to ensure that the former Shooters site becomes a vibrant public destination for all Rhode Islanders. Certainly other cities have seen increased economic activity on their waterfront with the burial of power lines from Boston to Louisville to San Antonio.

I am committing the City to be an active partner in helping to resolve any outstanding issues so this project can advance and the Providence and East Providence waterfront can become a statewide and regional attraction. I urge the Board to proceed with the underground alignment of the E-183 line.

Sincerely,

Angel Taveras
Mayor

City of Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1789
Phone (401) 421-7740 Fax (401) 274-8240



October 4, 2013

Ms. Nicholas S. Ucci, Coordinator
Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Re: Burial of India Point Park Power Lines

Dear Mr. Ucci:

On behalf of the East Providence Waterfront District Commission, I am writing to offer our full support for the burial of the National Grid transmission lines that cross the Seekonk River from Providence to East Providence. The Commission voted 5-0 at its September 30, 2013 meeting to support the project.

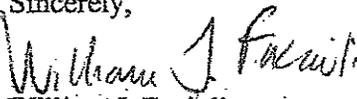
The East Providence Waterfront District represents tremendous potential for economic revitalization and growth in the City of East Providence and the State of Rhode Island. Burial of the power lines will assist this effort by creating a more attractive waterfront for future high-quality private development, as well as for current residents.

The power lines on the East Providence side of the River are located adjacent to the new Tockwotton on the Waterfront, a \$52 million assisted-living facility; the lines are an eyesore next to this beautiful new addition to the Waterfront District.

As you may know, East Providence residents have relinquished a rebate credit on their utility bills for years in order to provide financing for this important work and at this point millions of dollars remain languishing. The Waterfront District Commission is pleased to support this effort and offer our assistance to help implement this project: power lines in other locations in RI have been buried, so we know it can happen.

Please contact me or Jeanne Boyle if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


William J. Fazioli
Vice Chairman

C: David Riley, FIPP
Peter Graczykowski, City Manager- East Providence
James Briden, Mayor- East Providence

William J. Fazioli
Vice-Chairman

Jeanne M. Boyle
Executive Director

Members:

John J. Gregory III
Jacob Harpootian
Steven Hardcastle
Paul Moura
John Pesce
Luis Torrado
Peter Willey

Ex-Officio Members:

East Providence City
Manager

RI Department of
Environmental
Management

RI Department of
Transportation

RI Economic
Development
Corporation

East Providence
Waterfront Commission
City Hall
145 Taunton Avenue
East Providence, RI 02914
(401) 435-7531
fax: (401) 435-7611

www.eastprovidencewaterfront.com

145 Taunton Ave. East Providence, RI 02914 (401) 435-7530
www.eastprovidencewaterfront.com

October 19, 2013

Margaret Curran
Chair
Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Chair Curran:

We write this letter encouraging you to take action to bury the high voltage power lines in Providence's India Point Park. As the sitting State Senator and Representative for the area, we join the broad community support and advocacy for this project.

The relocation of the power lines is critical not only for improving the quality of life for the thousands of users of the park, but it will also assist with the redevelopment of the 195 land and the economic growth of our Capital City.

Community leaders, our academic institutions, and public officials have spent over a decade working to gain approval necessary to bury the power lines. The time for action is now. We strongly urge the Commission to take all appropriate actions to require National Grid to proceed with the plan to bury the power lines.

Sincerely,

Senator Gayle Goldin
Senator District 3

Representative Christopher Blazewski
Representative District 2



**Office of the City Council
City of Providence**

**SETH YURDIN
Majority Leader**

March 1, 2011

ATTN: Nicholas Ucci
Secretary
Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Re: Status of Underground Alignment of E-183 Line

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to reaffirm the City of Providence's support for the Underground Alignment of the E-183 Line from the Providence River at India Point Park to East Providence.

The project will positively impact the health and safety of patrons of India Point Park, which hosts hundreds of thousands of patrons from throughout Providence and the rest of Rhode Island. The burial of the power lines has broad community support, with representatives from community organizations, businesses, and universities, as well as elected officials. These varied groups have acknowledged the beneficial economic and environmental impacts the project will have.

As you know, the City of Providence, the City of East Providence, and the State of Rhode Island have taken substantive actions to facilitate the success of this project and committed significant resources towards the project. Furthermore, the City stands ready to undertake any additional necessary regulatory action required to move the project forward, including initiating the acquisition of the so-called Al Forno parking lot parcel, located on the east side of the Providence River.

Much time and effort has been devoted to ensuring that this project proceeds. I urge the Energy Facility Siting Board to take all appropriate steps to require National Grid to proceed with the underground alignment of the E-183 line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Yurdin".

Seth Yurdin
Majority Leader

CITY HALL • 25 DORRANCE STREET, ROOM 310 • PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Phone: (401) 521-7477 • Fax: (401) 521-3920

WARD1@PROVIDENCERL.COM



BROWN



JOHNSON & WALES
UNIVERSITY

September 10, 2013

The Honorable Angel Taveras
City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mayor Taveras:

Ten years ago, the presidents of our institutions wrote to your predecessor, Mayor Cicilline, in support of the effort to bury the high-voltage power lines in conjunction with the relocation of the I-195 project. Ten years later, the highway has been moved, a new bridge spans the Providence River, forty acres of land is available for development and open space, and much progress has been made revitalizing Providence. Unfortunately, little has changed along the City's India Point waterfront. It is still under-utilized and the power lines remain an impediment to improving this resource for the community and enhancing it for economic and recreational opportunities.

The relocation of the power lines remains a key element in the urban revitalization of the Providence waterfront. It would enhance the beauty of the waterfront from the power station to East Providence and complement efforts currently underway to improve the water quality of the upper Narragansett Bay, develop the 195 land and bring new life to the Shooters site. Neighborhood support for burying the power lines remains strong, and we are aware of a petition reinforcing community support with over 600 signatures, including the support of the Jewelry District, College Hill, and Fox Point Neighborhood Associations.

Your leadership, at this juncture, as work begins to develop the Providence riverfront parks, the 195 land and the Shooters site, is critical to breathing new life into this effort. As the previous letter of support stated ten years ago, "we have joined in support of burying the power lines because we share the belief that this investment is in the best interests of our community, our city and our state." That statement remains true today. We would appreciate your support in finishing this project.

Thank you for your continued support of the completion of this project.

Sincerely,

Christina H. Paxson
President
Brown University

John Maeda
President
Rhode Island School of Design

John J. Bowen
Chancellor and President
Johnson & Wales University

September 4, 2013

Colin Kane
Chairman
I-195 Redevelopment District Commission
315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101
Providence, RI 02908

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Samuel Shamoon
Kim Smith

Michael F. Sweeney
Mark Van Noppen

Martha Werenfels

W^m McKenzie Woodward

Karen L. Jessup
Interim Director

Dear Chairman Kane:

We are writing on behalf of the Planning and Architectural Review Committee of the Providence Preservation Society in support of the initiative to facilitate the burial of power lines that run from East Providence, across the Seekonk River, India Point Park, and the Providence River to the Franklin Square Substation in Providence.

The areas currently affected by the power lines hold great potential for Providence and include the parcels recently opened to development by the relocation of I-195, along with the former Shooters site, where an exciting proposal for engaging public use is under consideration. As the State looks to capitalize on these opportunities for private investment, it should be noted that proximity to high-voltage power lines lowers property values by as much as 30%.

It is also important to note that the City of Providence would not be funding this project, but rather federal, state, regional, and ratepayer sources. From these sources, \$17.5 million of the \$19.5 million needed to complete this project has already been raised (2007 National Grid estimate). Additionally, the tax base of the City of Providence would benefit from higher waterfront property values resulting from buried wires.

As an organization committed to enhancing the built environment within the City of Providence, PPS strongly believes that burying these power lines will have positive impacts on the civic and economic environment of Rhode Island. PPS is proud to join the several politicians, advocacy groups, private companies, and educational institutions also in support of this project.

The proposal to bury the power lines along the Providence waterfront will support the resurgence of this area as an economic catalyst for the region. Failure to bury the power lines may be seen a missed opportunity for decades to come. Please include this letter in the official record for the September 9 I-195 Commission meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,



Arria Bilodeau
PAR Co-Chair



Wm McKenzie Woodward
PAR Co-Chair

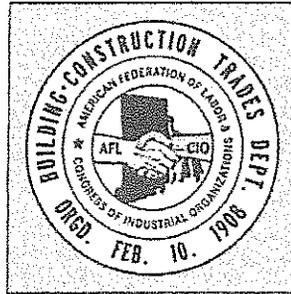
Michael F. Sabitoni
President

RHODE ISLAND

Scott Duhamel
Secretary/Treasurer

March 18, 2013

Mayor Angel Taveras
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903



BUILDING TRADES

Re: India Point Power Lines

Dear Mayor Taveras:

On behalf of the 8,500 members of the Rhode Island Building & Construction Trades Council, I am writing to urge the city to bury the power lines that line the East Providence and Providence waterfront in the India Park area for the reasons that follow.

These high-voltage lines on the Providence and East Providence waterfronts are a conspicuous impediment to the two cities capitalizing on enormous economic development potential. Burying them will create both short and long term economic development for the city. In the short term it will put skilled craftsmen and women to work forthwith. In the long term it will increase the value and attractiveness of the waterfront properties located in the nearby I-195 development parcels; the "Shooter" site, and parcels along the water in East Providence. This will make this real estate more attractive, and therefore, more likely to be developed in an expedient manner, putting construction workers to work and property on the tax rolls sooner.

It is my understanding that this approach has been a key ingredient in successfully transforming waterfronts in other mid-size cities. Chattanooga, Louisville, and San Antonio have buried shoreline wires transforming what were once industrial backwaters into highly successful waterfront attractions that draw millions of people.

Additionally, it is also my understanding that most if not all of the money needed for this project has been approved from other sources of revenue outside of the city. Accordingly, we see no reason not to go forward with this exciting project that will have such a positive benefit to the city.

As I have commented to you in person on many occasions, this recession has decimated our industry. We desperately need any initiatives that promote economic development. This is an excellent opportunity and on behalf of the members of unions of the Rhode Island Building & Construction Trades Council I urge you to move forward with this initiative.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and if I could get the courtesy of a reply I would appreciate it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Sabitoni
President

cc: Rhode Island Building & Construction Trades Council
RI AFL-CIO

Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council
410 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 331-9682 Fax: (401) 861-1480





Save The Bay Center
100 Save The Bay Drive
Providence, RI 02905

P: 401-272-3540
F: 401-273-7153
SAVEBAY.ORG

August 22, 2011

Chairman Elia Germani
Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB)
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Chairman Germani:

I am writing to reaffirm Save the Bay's support for burying the high voltage transmission lines that transect the waterfront at the head of Narragansett Bay in Providence and East Providence, including three public parks at India Point, Corliss Landing, and Bold Point. Save The Bay was one of the first of 35 organizations to endorse burying the wires in 2003, as a way to enhance public enjoyment and benefits of the Providence River.

The case for burial is more compelling today than ever because of the emerging economic development potential of this waterfront area. As Mayor Taveras stated in his March 4, 2011, letter to the EFSB supporting burying the wires, "In these difficult economic times, it is incumbent on the City and the State to capitalize on our assets." This signature urban waterfront, which 10 million travelers a year pass through on their way to and from Cape Cod, is clearly one of the State's underutilized economic assets.

Today this waterfront has great potential for economic development that will bolster the State's economy for generations to come: East Providence has broken ground on waterfront projects, the State's vision for creating a vibrant public destination at the Shooters nightclub site is attracting serious proposals, including one from Save the Bay, and Governor Chafee is about to name the I-195 Commission charged with promoting development of 19 acres in Providence opened up by the relocation of the highway.

Other cities have reaped major civic and economic benefits from upgrading their waterfront areas, in part by burying power lines that once transected them; cities such as Chattanooga, Louisville, San Antonio, and Providence itself, where one million people a year come to Waterfire, which would not have been possible if the utility lines there still crossed the river overhead.

For these reasons, Save the Bay strongly endorses burying the waterfront power lines; we appreciate your considering our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jonathan Stone
Executive Director



Fox Point Neighborhood Association

March 20, 2013

Mayor Angel Taveras
Office of the Mayor
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Please, Support Removal of Power Lines to Spur Development in Fox Point.

The Fox Point Neighborhood Association, FPNA, supports the continuing advocacy for the removal of obtrusive power lines that pass overhead along our southern border.

David Riley, co-chair of Friends for India Point Park, FIPP, and others have volunteered their time in countless meetings and communications with the many of the involved parties for over ten years! We applaud this steadfast advocacy, but now ask you for *action*. Over \$17.2 million, or 90 percent of National Grid's 2007 cost estimate, has been raised and designated for the burial of power lines that traverse three waterfront parks in two cities. It is our understanding that if these funds are not used soon they may be allowed to dissipate.

Not only do the power lines create an unattractive situation, they negatively impact property valuations by as much as 30 percent. FIPP has received numerous endorsements, but the project has failed to materialize because it has not become a priority for National Grid, or state and city governments. (Mayor, as you know FPNA has supported the many, huge accomplishments of your brief time in the office.)

Now, that damage control for the stage-five hurricane has past, we ask for leadership from you and other governmental officials on this issue. It is an obvious enhancement to our waterfront parks *and* also is instrumental to the future marketability and development of the Shooters site and the two adjacent I-195 parcels in Fox Point.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daisy Schnepel, FPNA Vice President

Cc: Governor Lincoln Chafee
East Providence Mayor Briden
Councilman Seth Yurdin
Director Rubén Flores-Marzán, AICP, Department of Planning & Development
Colin Kane, I-195 Redevelopment Commission Chairman
State Senator Gayle Golden
State Rep. Chris Blazejewski
David Riley, FIPP Co-Chair



87 John Street, Providence, RI 02906
info@friendsofindiapointpark.org
www.friendsofindiapointpark.org
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfIndiaPointPark>

October 21, 2013

Margaret E. Curran, Esq.
Chairwoman
R.I. Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Dear Chairwoman Curran,

The last time I wrote a letter in support of the burial of the high voltage power lines in India Point Park, it was 10 years ago and I was 7. I have since lost that letter, but I am sure it said something about wanting the power lines to be buried so that I would not have to play beneath them after school with my friends.

Though I still support that 7 year-old's reasoning, I now feel a different, but somehow stronger connection to this landscape that I have grown up with. I have spent summers rowing past the shore and watching the fireworks each 4th of July sitting on the grass with my friends. In the winter, I help my younger neighbors sled safely down the hill after snowstorms and now, it is there where I search for the perfect spot to take my senior portrait.

These wonderful memories are, however, always slightly clouded by the high voltage power lines. They have an insidious talent of creeping into every aspect of life on this beautiful piece of Providence waterfront. I have rowed over the skeletal shadows that the power lines make on the water and seen them in the background of my photos and blocking the view of the fireworks.

It is sad to think that after 11 years of working to bury these power lines, Providence might have the same fate as cities that have neglected their shorelines and failed to remove similar industrial eyesores. Since we have come to this critical moment when the power lines must be replaced, it is my prayer that the State of Rhode Island chooses to improve our shoreline rather than spend the next hundred years with a blighted waterfront.

Thank you,

Candace Powning
Candace Powning
Supporter, Friends of India Point Park

Capt. Austin Becker, PhD
56 Armstrong Ave
Providence, RI 02903
austinb@stanford.edu
401-636-0430

Oct. 21, 2013

Margaret E. Curran, Esq.
Chairwoman
R.I. Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Dear Ms. Curran:

This letter concerns the proposed plan to lower the power lines that cross the Seekonk River between Providence and East Providence. The current height of the powerlines is 120', which allows vessels with "air drafts" up to or near this height to navigate the Seekonk River as far north as the Washington Bridge. Lowering the lines to the proposed new height of 50-70' would impede navigation for many vessels, including historic tall ships, large yachts, and some power vessels that have masts over 70' high. Historically, the area has been transited by such vessels on educational harbor tours and by vessels berthing at the East Providence Marina.

As Captain of the Continental Sloop Providence from 1998 – 2004 (Rhode Island's Tall Ship), I transited this area frequently to teach students the history of shipyards, steamboats, and oyster houses that once lined the banks of the Seekonk River. Our nonprofit organization also used the area to host visiting historic vessels as part of waterfront festivals at India Point Park. Vessels such as these have masts that are often much higher than 70'. The Sloop Providence, for example, has a mast that reaches 96'.

In my research on working waterfronts and as an Asst. Professor of Coastal Planning, Policy, and Design at the University of Rhode Island, I have seen numerous examples of "navigational-impingement creep," in which areas once used for navigation are slowly lost due to bridge heights being lowered, channels filling with sediment, or suitable berthing facilities falling into a state of disrepair. One only has to look at the 20' overhead clearance of the Hurricane Barrier in Providence, which leaves the inner harbor inaccessible for sailing vessels to berth or to seek safe harbor in the event of an impending storm. Currently there are almost no available berths in Providence or East Providence for such vessels, with the notable exception being the marinas north of the power lines.

Navigable channels and the working waterfront provide valuable assets to the tourist economy and culture of the region. I urge the Siting Board to approve burial of the powerlines so that vessels with tall masts may continue to navigate, berth in, and explore the waters all the way up to the Washington Street Bridge.

Sincerely,



Captain Austin Becker, PhD



CHURCHILL & BANKS

March 7, 2012

Mr. James Bennett
Providence Economic Development Director
444 Westminster Street, 3rd floor
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Burial of Providence Waterfront Power Lines

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I have been asked by Mr. David Riley of Friends of India Point Park to support this project, as a property owner and future developer of a new multi use project on Pike Street and South Main Street.

I was unaware of the potential funding of this project and the completion of the power line burial.

I sincerely believe it will not only enhance our future project, but will be a major asset for the Providence Waterfront and the redevelopment of the new I95 land parcels.

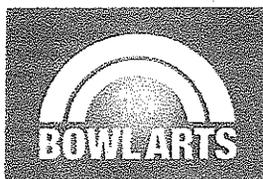
I encourage you to support the implantation and completion of the project.

Respectfully,


Richard Baccetti II
Executive Vice President

RB:dar

enclosure



February 21, 2013

Dear Mr. Mayor,

We are writing to lend our voice to the chorus of organizations that fully support the burial of the power lines that transect the waterfront at the head of Narragansett Bay in Providence and East Providence. As an organization that seeks to enhance the quality of life on the waterfront through the creation of an open-air three season performing arts center at 25 India st., a parcel situated adjacent to these power lines, we strongly align ourselves with this effort to bury them and beautify the area.

Though Bowl Arts is only one of many organizations that supports this drive, we are deeply invested in the commercial and cultural viability of the waterfront and understand the profound transformation that can occur when Providence embraces this underutilized asset.

We foresee a great future for Providence's waterfront, one where tourists from all over the region will flock, by car, on foot, by bike, by boat, and area businesses will flourish. Providence would join the list of cities such as Chattanooga, Louisville, and San Antonio that have elevated their profiles by burying power lines that marred their landscapes. Bowl Arts seeks to be part of Providence's waterfront transformation for the 21st century and strongly endorses burying the power lines as an integral step in bringing this about.

Sincerely,



Bowl Arts
Sam White, Principal
Michael Gazdacko, Principal

RHODE ISLAND SEAFOOD FESTIVAL



June 7, 2013
Mayor Angel Taveras
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 09203

Re: Burying India Point Park Power Lines

Dear Mayor Taveras,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the Rhode Island Seafood Festival and our vested interest in improving India Point Park. The park is beautiful and the most ideal place for us to hold our festival. As we look to the future of the festival and entertain the idea of holding other events at the park, we believe burying the power lines that cross the east side of the park would open up many more opportunities for us.

As the festival expands we intend to use the entire park. This year we looked into the possibility of having a helicopter company out of Newport up for the weekend to do tours of Providence from India Point Park. Unfortunately it will not work out for us because the only area big enough to use is the soccer field, but the power lines make that a no fly area. Last year our festival grew from 5,000 to 8,000 patrons, and this year we are optimistically anticipating a turnout of 20,000+ over the two days.

I am fortunate enough to have a job that takes me to a lot of different cities for extended periods of time and I have noticed that the cities that have maximized the waterfront potential have seen a huge response. Two cities that I have spent time in most recently - Cincinnati, OH and Portland, OR - have waterfront parks near their downtown areas that are packed with people using the parks daily. Almost every weekend there are larger events that attract people by the tens of thousands.

The recent renovation of the park has undoubtedly brought the Providence waterfront to new heights, but continuing to improve upon the park will pay dividends in the form of travel & tourism as well attracting new businesses & people to the city.

Thank you for all of your continued support for us and the Rhode Island Seafood Festival.

TJ McNulty


Co-Founder

Dan MacKinnon


Co-Founder

Cc:

Chief of Staff Arianne Lynch
Governor Lincoln Chafee
Economic Development Director Jim Bennett
Planning and Development Director Ruben Flores-Marzan
Art, Culture & Tourism Director Lynne McCormack



TOCKWOTTON
ON THE WATERFRONT

October 22, 2013

Margaret E. Curran, Esq.
Chairwoman, Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Dear Attorney Curran,

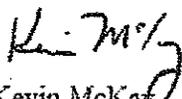
On behalf of the residents, staff and Board of Directors of Tockwotton on the Waterfront, located at 500 Waterfront Drive in East Providence, I am writing to you in support of burying the current power lines on the Providence and East Providence Waterfronts. As the Executive Director of Tockwotton on the Waterfront, I hear first hand from our residents and their family members about their aversion to the appearance of the towers and lines.

The current lines are a blight on both the Capital City view from East Providence and the developing East Bay landscape view from Fox Point and the Providence waterfront. Together, Tockwotton on the Waterfront and the City of East Providence has made great strides in approving the appearance of the East Providence Waterfront yet we still look upon these mammoth electrical towers traversing the waterfront view. The burial of these lines, will insure that the Providence and East Providence Waterfronts are aesthetically gratifying for all of Rhode Islanders to enjoy.

In early discussions with National Grid there was talk about moving the Phillips dale tap line onto the parcel of land that Tockwotton currently owns on the corner of Mauran Avenue and Waterfront Drive. Relocating these lines will allow for development of this parcel of land, which would be instrumental in continuing the vision that has been laid out for the East Providence Waterfront. There is a great need throughout the state for new business development and job creation; moving these power lines will provide both to the Providence and East Providence Waterfronts.

We thank you and the Board for your review and consideration of our support in the burial of the lines. Additionally, we would like to invite you and other members of the Board, at your convenience, to visit Tockwotton on the Waterfront so that you may experience our view of these objectionable power lines in person.

Sincerely,


Kevin McKa
Executive Director

500 WATERFRONT DRIVE • EAST PROVIDENCE, RI 02914
PHONE 401.272.5280 • FAX 401.421.0550 • WWW.TOCKWOTTON.ORG

Assisted Living • Memory Care • Short-term Rehabilitation • Skilled Nursing



PO Box 603172, Providence, RI 02906

info@friendsofindiapointpark.org

www.friendsofindiapointpark.org

Overview of Burying Providence Waterfront Power Lines

1. \$17.2 Million raised & designated for burying the wires under 2 rivers & 3 waterfront parks, from federal, state, and ratepayer sources. This represents **90%** of National Grid's '07 cost estimate of **\$18.965M** (which includes \$1M to acquire land in Providence that will revert back to the City).

- Nat'l Grid added a 3% escalation figure in 4/13, bringing its cost estimate to \$22.7M, which flies in the face of highly competitive bidding in the current slack economy that has resulted in the Narragansett Bay Commission's large construction contracts coming in an average of **36% below estimates**.
- The **total raised will increase** when National Grid updates (1) the interest accrued on funds set aside for burial in 2004, and (2) the cost estimate of the Seekonk river crossing to be funded by the regional grid.
- **Use it or lose it:** If not spent on burial, these funds will dissipate with no comparable, large-scale benefit.
- **No city funds** from the Providence or East Providence budgets are included in the \$17.2M raised.
- The **shortfall** will be covered by a surcharge on Providence and E. Providence electricity rates (authorized by state law and approved by the City Councils), costing the average ratepayer 3 cents a month for every \$ 1million raised, Nat'l Grid says, or **20 cents a month** – less than ½ a postage stamp – if the shortfall were to increase to \$6.5M. This will buy a benefit for the region that will last 100 years.

2. Economic and Environmental Benefits: Multiple studies show that proximity to power lines depresses property values by as much as **30%**. Burying these wires will **increase the cities' tax base** by increasing assessments for:

- nearby I-195 development parcels in Providence
- the Shooters site where the state is considering a proposal for an amphitheater, marina, and restaurant
- development parcels on the East Providence waterfront.

The **electro-magnetic field** of transmission wires, which raises public health concerns for parks and nearby residences, will be reduced to "virtually nil" by burial, according to the EIS of the 195 relocation project.

3. Broad Public Support for burial, endorsed by:

- **Gov. Chafee, Mayor Taveras**, three university presidents, labor union leaders, and waterfront developers
- **35 city & state organizations**, including 10 Providence neighborhood groups and 8 environmental groups
- Over **625 signatures** on an online petition, including residents of 32 out of RI's 39 cities & towns.

4. Next Steps

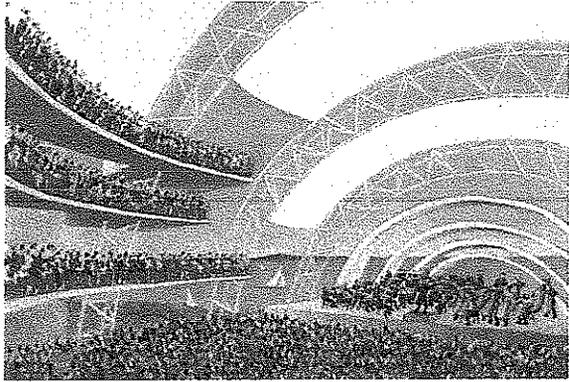
- Acquire small waterfront parcel in Providence.
- Resolve E. Providence issues re property acquisition, re-aligning remaining overhead line, and legal fees.
- Sign funding agreement between Providence, E. Providence, National Grid, and RI Attorney General.
- Detailed updates of:
 - Nat'l Grid's 2007 cost estimate
 - the interest accrued to date on funds set aside for burial by Nat'l Grid in 2004
 - the cost of the Seekonk river crossing to be paid by the regional grid, ISO-New England
 - the Greenway grants, to be confirmed by state agencies DEM and DOT.

For more information, see photos and map at www.friendsofindiapointpark.org, and fact sheets on:

-- Funding Update -- Economic Benefits of Burial -- Support for Burying Wires

THE PROVIDENCE BOWL

This is the moment. The moment for a new icon in our skyline and a new gathering place on our waterfront. This the moment to promote Rhode Island, elevate the arts, and engage Narragansett Bay with spectacular style. This is the moment for a magnificent new gateway that draws the public by land and sea, and showcases the creative power of our Capital City. **This is the moment for the Providence Bowl.**



THE PROGRAM

Best Local and National Performing Arts. Indoor and Outdoor Dining. Farmers Markets. Festivals. Conferences. Trade Shows. Commencement Ceremonies. Corporate Retreats. Marine Education. Lawn Sports. Yoga. Dance. Celebrations. And many, many more potential uses.

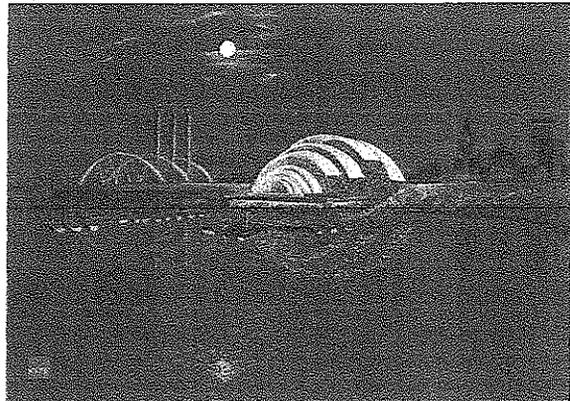
THE TEAM

-Sam White, Principal and Creative Director.
-Michael Gazdacko, Principal and Director of Development and Operations.
-Lee Eस्कilsen, Development Consultant, ES Venues
-R. Lupo & J. Reich, Partners Booking /Mgmt.
-Keith Fayan, Esq., Partner and Chief Counsel.
-Architectural services provided by KITE Architects, Inc., Christine West, AIA.

THE DESIGN

- 77k sq ft Seasonal Performing Arts Center.
 - Tiered and Turfed.
 - Glass-Backed Clamshell Stage.
 - Retractable Awnings.
 - Capacity: 3500.
- Waterfront Restaurant.
- 50-Slip Marina, Ferry Dock, Seasonal and Transient Wharfage.
- Public Fairgrounds.

THE SITE 25 India St, former Shooters site.



This is the moment. The Providence Bowl was the single proposal submitted for development of this site. Bowl Arts LLC is currently working in concert with the RI DEM and EDC to bring it to fruition. **The Providence Bowl** has already drawn broad community support.

BOWL ARTS, LLC seeks private equity investors interested in a stake in this legacy project.



(401) 837-5438 - inquiries@bowlartsri.com

NBC Contracts: Bid v. Estimates
NBC **Notes**

Contract	May 2011 Estimates	Final Engineer's Estimate	Lowest Bid	Low Bid minus Final Est	% change from final est	CONTRACT AMOUNT TO DATE	CONTRACT AMOUNT INCREASE
C-2 OF 106	\$8,000,000.00	\$6,000,000.00	\$3,688,936.00	(\$2,311,064.00)	-38.52%	\$3,688,936	\$3.20%
C-3 WCSOI Main	\$90,000,000.00	\$90,000,000.00	\$59,995,000.00	(\$30,005,000.00)	-33.34%	\$62,899,119	\$2.90%
C-4 WCSOI Main	\$58,000,000.00	\$35,000,000.00	\$18,657,000.00	(\$16,343,000.00)	-46.69%	\$18,657,000	
C-5 OF 027	\$8,000,000.00	\$9,652,533.00	\$6,580,587.00	(\$3,071,946.00)	-31.81%	\$8,678,698	\$2.09%
C-6 OF 037 West	\$18,000,000.00	\$8,442,650.00	\$7,429,700.00	(\$1,012,950.00)	-12.02%	\$7,313,814	\$8
C-7 OF 037 South	\$12,000,000.00	\$12,000,000.00	\$7,766,822.00	(\$4,233,178.00)	-35.29%	\$7,766,822.00	
C-8 OF 037 North	\$12,000,000.00	\$12,000,000.00	\$7,367,301.20	(\$4,632,698.80)	-38.61%	\$7,367,301.20	
C-9 WCSOI Regulator Modifications	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$894,000.00	\$144,000.00	19.20%	\$853,678	(\$40)
C-10 WCSOI North	\$20,000,000.00	\$10,068,000.00	\$5,368,000.00	(\$4,700,000.00)	-46.68%	\$5,368,000	
C-11 WCSOI West	\$15,000,000.00	\$15,000,000.00	\$6,848,518.00	(\$8,151,482.00)	-54.34%	\$10,144,807	\$3.20%
C-12 WCSOI Regulator Modifications	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,562,000.00	\$598,000.00	(\$964,000.00)	-61.72%	\$598,000	
C-13 WCSOI Demolition	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$194,850.00	(\$305,150.00)	-61.03%	\$108,112	(\$86)
C-14 WCSOI CSO 054	N/A	\$2,000,000.00	\$2,368,865.00	\$368,865.00	18.44%	\$2,368,883	
306.00C - Poolsides Structure	\$4,300,000.00	\$4,300,000.00	\$4,202,036.00	(\$97,964.00)	-2.28%	\$4,202,036	
TOTALS		\$207,275,183.00	\$131,969,613.20		-36.34%	\$140,215,006.20	\$8,155.3

Yvonne Berg Conn.

FUNDING UPDATE: \$17.2 Million Raised to Bury Providence Power Lines

COST OF BURIAL: \$23,750,000

Nat'l Grid's 4/13 estimate: \$22.7M (includes 3% escalation figure)*, plus acquiring S. Main St. parcel: \$1.050M.

FUNDS RAISED: \$17,175,000

From federal, state, regional, and ratepayer sources. Additional funding, highlighted below, will be forthcoming.

SHORTFALL: \$6,575,000

*Even as large sewer construction projects in RI are coming in at 36% below estimates because stiff competition among contractors in our slack economy is driving costs down.

Background:

- A feasible route for burying the wires, identified by National Grid engineers, involves drilling under two rivers and three waterfront parks.
- A surcharge on Providence and East Providence ratepayers to make up the shortfall was authorized by the General Assembly, with the support of National Grid, and approved by both City Councils in 2008.

- **Cost of the surcharge:** National Grid has stipulated that it will cost the average ratepayer in Providence and E. Providence 3 cents a month for every \$1 million raised, or 20 cents a month -- less than ½ a postage stamp -- if the shortfall were to increase to \$6.5M. Underground wires will increase property values on waterfront parcels, enhance economic development, and upgrade public space there for the next 100 years or more.

FUNDING SOURCES:

- Use it or lose it: If not used for burial, these funds will dissipate without any comparable, large-scale enhancement.
- None of these funds will come from Providence or East Providence city budgets.

Amount	Source	Additional Information & Funding
\$8.1M	-- \$5.8M refund for Prov. & E. Prov. ratepayers was set aside in 11/04, and approved by both City Councils. (Refund would have been \$1.71/month for 1 year for the average ratepayer, resulting from Grid's merger-related savings in operating costs.) -- \$2.3M in interest accrued on the \$5.8M refund set aside in 11/04.	The refund earned \$2.3M in interest from 12/04 through 12/12, per Grid's stipulation in 4/13. Additional interest * accrued since then will be added to the funding total.
\$2.5M	Sen. Chafee's earmark in FY05 federal transportation funds designated for power lines burial, held by RI Dept. of Transportation (RIDOT).	The state's 10/11 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) lists "earmark funding remaining," including state match, at \$3.13M.
\$2.7M	Gov. Carcieri committed \$2.5M in 6/04 when the General Assembly passed the first bill authorizing burial. In 8/05, then RIDOT Dir. Capaldi committed an additional \$200K to cover burial costs.	Dept of Admin. aty Mike Mitchell repeatedly conveyed RIDOT's commitment of \$5.2M (\$2.5 + \$2.7M) to the Energy Facilities Siting Board in 7/10, 3/11, 4/11, and 8/11, and reiterated it in 1/13.
\$2M	National Grid Storm Fund grant for burial approved by Public Utilities Commission (PUC), 5/04.	PUC approved replenishing the storm fund by \$4.8M per year for six years, 11/12.
\$1.5M	Regional contribution from ISO-New England. In 2/06, the regional electrical grid committed to pay for replacing the antiquated Seekonk River crossing.	ISO's contribution will increase significantly** when Grid updates and provides more detail for its cost estimate for the Seekonk River crossing, which it submitted to ISO in 2004.
\$250K	Greenways Grant Award to Providence, per 10/23/03 certificate signed by then DEM Dir. Jan Reitsma and then RI Greenways Council representative George Johnson (from Statewide Planning), pursuant to the Providence Parks Dept.'s application.	When DEM reassigned these funds to another Providence project in 2012, Director Coit told the Governor's office she would replace the funds from other sources when the power lines burial begins.
\$125K	RI Recreational Trails Program 2003 Greenways Grant Award to Providence, per 10/23/03 certificate signed by then RIDOT Dir. Capaldi and then DEM Dir. Reitsma.	Though RIDOT and DEM staffers can't find paper work for this grant, the certificate for it exists, and the Directors should honor the commitment their predecessors made when they signed it.
\$17.175M	TOTAL	Additional funding for burial will result from updating * the interest earned on the refund, and ** the cost estimate for the Seekonk River crossing to be paid by ISO-New England.



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

October 19, 2013

Margaret Curran
Chair
Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

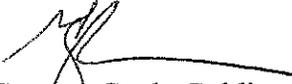
Dear Chair Curran:

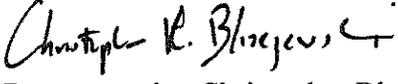
We write this letter encouraging you to take action to bury the high voltage power lines in Providence's India Point Park. As the sitting State Senator and Representative for the area, we join the broad community support and advocacy for this project.

The relocation of the power lines is critical not only for improving the quality of life for the thousands of users of the park, but it will also assist with the redevelopment of the 195 land and the economic growth of our Capital City.

Community leaders, our academic institutions, and public officials have spent over a decade working to gain approval necessary to bury the power lines. The time for action is now. We strongly urge the Commission to take all appropriate actions to require National Grid to proceed with the plan to bury the power lines.

Sincerely,


Senator Gayle Goldin
Senator District 3


Representative Christopher Blazejewski
Representative District 2