

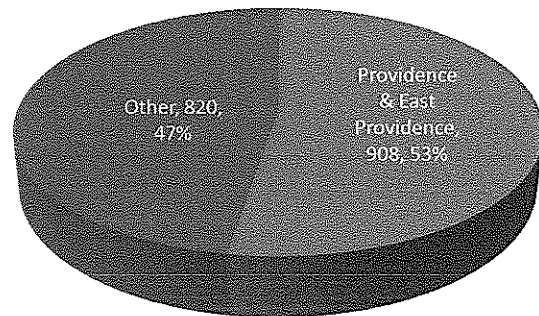


Petition to Bury Waterfront Power Lines: More than 1,700 Signatures from All 39 RI Towns

More than 1,700 people have signed the petition at www.friendsofindiapointpark.org to bury the power lines on the Providence-East Providence waterfront. The petition calls on the Governor and Mayors of Providence and East Providence to bury these wires, which will benefit both the economy and the environment of RI for generations to come.

As the chart indicates, 47% of petition signers are from outside Providence and East Providence, indicating strong statewide support for burial. The 335 comments submitted by signers are similarly dispersed.

Petition Signatures, 5/14



Boost Tourism

- "This is a high profile scenic area that cannot be matched anywhere in the city. It should be used to its greatest potential as a welcome to Providence." -- Liz D, Providence
- "It is crucial that this diamond in the rough of Providence be aesthetically pleasing. In years to come, it may be the front door to tourism in our capital." -- Merleann P, Lincoln
- "Our city's most scenic section should not look like an industrial area!" -- Rick R, Providence
- "The power lines unnecessarily mar this important area and retard economic development through tourism and real estate development." -- Tom G, Providence
- "I want Providence to be as beautiful as it can be so passersby see it and stop and spend some money." -- Lorne A, Providence

Upgrade the Waterfront

- "Providence's historic charm and the beauty of its waterfront are an important part of our economy and identity. The power lines depress both." -- Justin B, Providence
- "Providence has few park spaces with access to the Bay. It is important to maintain people's connection to the water with natural landscapes where they can escape urban structure." -- Molly H, Providence
- "Our waterfront is a resource that most cities would envy. We are not taking full advantage of it." -- Anthony A, Providence
- "Rhode Island has such amazing water views...they renew the spirit. Wherever possible, we need to keep the view clear...burying the lines will help." -- Carol F, Portsmouth
- "This is a no-brainer. I can't believe it is even a point of discussion. On the waterfront?! Come on!" -- Mary C, Providence
- "I believe in the power of open spaces to bring people together. Macro-utilities are a distraction to a well-conceived park." -- Neil B, Waltham, MA

Increase Property Values and Create Jobs

- "The beauty of Narragansett Bay provides thousands of jobs in our struggling economy. We need to continue to invest in it to make our city/state an attractive destination to retain and grow these jobs."
-- Mary T, Barrington
- "This is mostly paid for, will beautify the community, is safer, and may increase property values! Let's do it!!
-- Michael C, Providence
- "It is in these subtle ways that we improve property values and increase revenues. Burying lines is becoming more the norm, making the existing ones even more apparent and ugly."
-- Sarah L, Cranston
- "We need to update our biggest asset – waterfront land! – and use a union workforce to do it to insure that local people are put to work."
-- Eileen N, N. Providence

Protection from Storms

- "This is exactly the kind of public works project our city should be initiating, particularly with the terrible storms and unpredictable weather the northeast has been experiencing lately."
-- Jess R, Providence
- "Burying these wires will make Providence more resilient against the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels and higher frequency of more intense precipitation events."
-- Dena A, New Haven, CT
- "If National Grid buried more of its transmission lines, there would be fewer power outages. Three recently put half the state in darkness, due to storms that should not have taken down the grid."
-- Brad M, Providence
- "Overhead power lines are prone to recurring damage from snow, ice, wind, etc., which cause power outages and recurring costs to repair."
-- Philip A, Brookline, MA

Funds Already Raised

- "Because this project makes sense. It has been funded, so what's the problem?"
-- Peter P, Cranston
- "If you promise something, follow through with it!"
-- Kim D, N. Providence
- "These wretched wires are the biggest blot on the landscape. When he was a U.S. Senator, Gov. Chafee pushed through legislation to bury the wires. It's time to get out the shovels."
-- Lewis D, Providence
- "If the money is there, use it or lose it."
-- Mathew C, Providence

Long Term Benefits

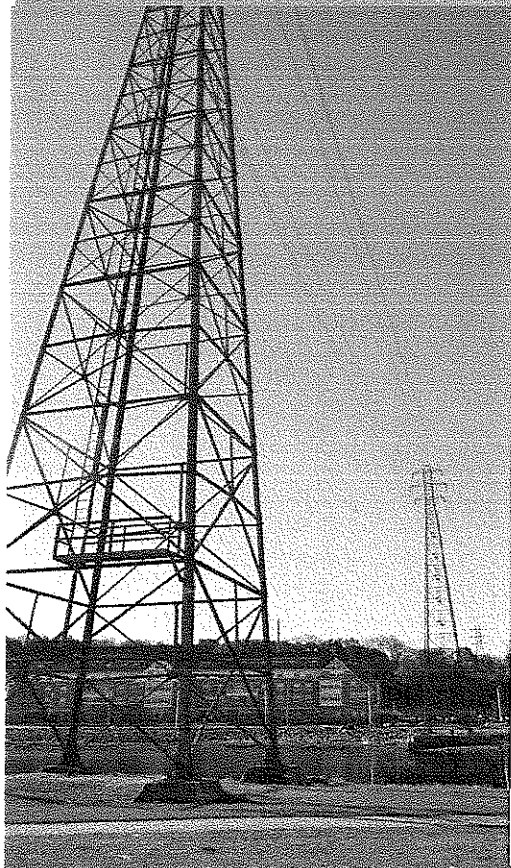
- "This project will have a return on investment far beyond its costs. Not spending this money is penny wise and pound foolish....Time for Rhode Island to think big."
-- Donald B, Providence
- "What a tremendous difference to the city of Annapolis once the power lines were buried. I wish the same for the residents of Rhode Island!
-- Mary M, Dedham, MA
- "A long overdue, obvious, and important economically and environmentally sound project that will enhance our entire state in a multitude of ways."
-- Dan N, W. Greenwich
- "We only get to do this once. Let's do it right! For now...and for the future generations."
-- Stephen B, Providence

One minute of your time will upgrade our waterfront for the next 100 years.

Please Sign Our Petition to bury power lines along the Providence & East Providence waterfront.

Go to: www.friendsofindiapointpark.org

People from any town in RI, MA, and other states are welcome to sign!
As political campaigns heat up, more signatures are critical.



Burying these wires will:

- ✓ **Boost economic development**
by increasing property values for planned projects by up to 30%.
- ✓ **Create 300 jobs**
- ✓ **Enhance popular waterfront parks**
- ✓ **Protect power lines** from outages and damage caused by storms, flooding, and rising sea levels.

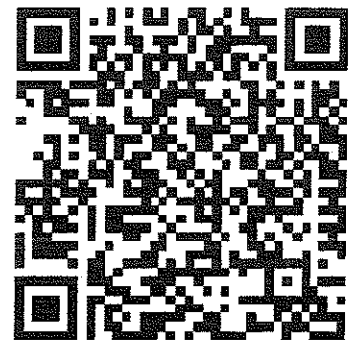
This project now has momentum!

The project is underway: National Grid will complete its cost estimate and feasibility studies by Sept. 30, as ordered by RI Energy Facility Siting Board.

\$17 million raised and designated specifically for burial. Use it or lose it!

More than 1,700 people have signed our petition from all 39 RI towns, nearly half from outside Providence/E. Providence, indicating statewide support.

Supporters include: Gov. Chafee, Mayor Taveras, all 2014 Providence mayoral candidates, the I-195 Commission, the presidents of Brown, RISD & JWU, waterfront developers, 35 city & state groups: RI Trades Council, Save the Bay, Prov. Preservation Society, etc.



Scan this code with your smart phone to sign.
Or visit our site to sign & get more information..

info@friendsofindiapointpark.org



ROOSEVELT INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMY

May 27, 2013
Mayor Angel Taveras
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 09203

RE: Burying India Point Park Power Lines

Dear Mayor Taveras,

I am writing regarding the burying of the India Point Park power lines. My company, Roosevelt International Academy (RIA) recently made a significant, multi-million dollar investment into the Fox Point neighborhood, acquiring the old Tockwotton Home and turning it into a thriving international education organization. In the past year we have created over 25 new jobs (we have over 40 staff in total) and our students have spent an estimated \$150,000 at local businesses.

RIA's success in attracting students is due in part to the beauty of Providence and our wonderful location overlooking India Point Park. However, it is a constant struggle in our marketing and promotional materials to manage the appearance of the power lines that hang in front of our building. When potential students and their parents visit our facility, these power lines often elicit negative comments and questions. Also, every time one of our 80+ students or their families takes a photo near our building or at the Park, that photo is shared globally (literally) and becomes a lasting and public image of Providence.

As evidenced by the comments of the more than 80 families that RIA serves, I am confident that burying the power lines will not only help our business attract more customers (thereby adding more jobs and bringing more money into the local economy) but will also enhance the reputation of Providence as a desirable location to live and study.

Accordingly, I urge you to support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'B. Ben Tré'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Benjamin Ben Tré
Managing Partner

CC:

Rhode Island Energy Facility Board – Margaret E. Curran, Esq.