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78 Public & Private Organizations Support Burying the Waterfront Power Lines

GOVERNMENT, 11 State and City Entities

State Officials & 4 State Entities

Former Governors Raimundo, Carcieri and Lincoln Chafee, former Atty. Gen. Lynch, and former Lt. Gov. Fogarty have expressed their support for burial, 2003-2021
Attorney General Neronha petitioned the RI Supreme Ct. to remand the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) order to relocate the lines above ground because it failed to make findings of fact required by state law. 3/21

RI General Assembly

Senate President Ruggerio, Sens. Goldin, and Goodwin, Co-sponsored Sen. Bill No. 2164 to establish “enforceable schedule” for burial; held for study by Commerce Com, 2016
Former Senators Conley, DaPonte, Perry, and York.
Reps.: Majority Leader Blazajewski and Rep. Ajello
Former Reps. Regunberg, Moura, Dennigan, Coogan, Savage, and Rose
House Resolution H7378, asked PUC & utility “to favorably consider” burial, 2/5/04

DEM Advisory Opinion, Ron Gagnon, 2004
Statewide Planning Advisory Opinion, John O’Brien, 2004
I-195 Redevelopment District Commission Resolution, 2013

Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza: City Officials and 4 City Entities

Petitioned RI Supreme Ct. to remand Energy Facility Siting Board’s (EFSB) order to relocate lines overhead & instruct EFSB to make required findings re burial’s feasibility, 8/18
Former Providence Mayors Cicilline and Taveras publicly supported burial.
Prov. City Council Resolutions, 1/03, 1/04, 5/04, 10/04, and 8/14
Former Councilmen David Segal and Majority Leader Seth Yurdin
Prov. Dept. of Planning and Development letter by Director Sam Shamoon, 1/03
Prov. City Plan Commission Advisory Opinion, Vice-Chair Harrison Bilodeau, 1/04
Prov. Parks Department letter, N.Derrig, 4/03, Superintendent Wendy Nilsson, 8/16
Grant application by Bob McMahon, 2003

East Providence: City Officials and 3 City Entities

Acting City Manager, William Conley, 7/03
East Prov. City Council Resolutions, 1/04, 10/04, and 8/08
East Prov. Planning Board letter, Former Acting Chair Michael Robinson, 1/04
East Prov. Waterfront District Commission letter, Vice-Chair William Fazioli, 10/13

BUSINESS, 17

Organizations, 8

Downtown Merchants Association, Josh Miller, 2003
Greater Providence Board of Realtors, 2018
Providence Apartment Association, Keith Fernandez, 2018
Providence Foundation, Cliff Wood, 2017, 2021
Providence Tourism Council, George Donnelly, 2003
Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau, M. Sheridan, 2016-17; K. Adamo, 2021
South Main St. Improvement Association, Jim Hahn, 2003
Wickenden Area Merchants Association, Vincent Scorziello, 2014, 2016, 2018

BUSINESS (Cont'd)

Businesses, 9

Cornish Associates, Buff Chace, 2013, 2016, 2018

Churchill & Banks, Richard Baccari II, 2012

Doyle Realty, Kerrie Doyle, 2013, 2018

Eat Drink RI, David Dadekian, 2016

Narragansett Brewery, Mark Hellendrung, 2021

Procaccianti Companies, P. Ziegler, 2016; M. Voccola, 2018; W. Walker, 2021

Residential Properties, Sally Lapidés, 2016, 2017, 2021

Rhode Island Seafood Festival, TJ McNulty, 2013, 2016, 2018

Tockwotton Home, Kevin McCay, 2013

LABOR, 3

IBEW Local 99, Joe Walsh, 2018

RI Building & Construction Trades Council, Michael Sabitoni, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2021

Unite Here Local 26, Jenna Karlin, 2018

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS and PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, 5

Joint letters from Presidents of Brown, RISD, and Johnson & Wales:

Ruth Simmons, Roger Mandle, and John Bowen, 2003

Ruth Simmons, Roger Mandle, and Irving Schneider, 2007

Christina Paxson, John Maeda, and John Bowen, 2013

Individual letters from Presidents Simmons Mandle, and Bowen, 2003

American Institute of Architects, RI Chapter, Martha Werenfels, 2002

American Society of Landscape Architects, RI Chapter, C. Carberry 2003; M. Bagga, 2018

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, 18

Blackstone Park Conservancy, Jane Peterson, 2018

Building Bridges Providence, Olin Thompson, 2017

Conservation Law Foundation, Jennifer Cole Steele, 2003; Jerry Elmer, 2016

DOT Watch, Bob Votava, 2003

Downtown Parks Conservancy, Cliff Wood, 2017

Dunn Foundation (formerly Scenic RI), Richard Youngken, 2003

East Coast Greenway, Molly Henry, 2016; Dennis Markatos-Soriano, 2018

Friends of India Point Park, David Riley, 2003-2021

Greenways Alliance of RI, Richard Santopietro, 2003

Groundwork Providence, Laura Archambault, 2003

Preserve RI, Janet Zwolinski, 2003; Valerie Talmage, 2017

Providence Preservation Society, Arria Bilodeau, 2013; Brent Runyon, 2016, 2017, 2018

RI Bicycle Coalition, Ale Kroghe-Grabbe Ellis, 2016; Sarah Mitchell, 2018

RI Rivers Council, Veronica Berounsky, 2018

RI Tree Council, Fred Stolle, 2003

Save the Bay, Topher Hamblett, 2003; Jonathan Stone, 2011, 2016, 2021

Sierra Club, RI Chapter, Barry Schiller, 200

Southside Community Land Trust, Jane Jellison, 2003

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, 15

Cape Verdean Subcom. of RI Historic Preservation & Heritage Com, Mercedes Montiero, 2003
 College Hill Neighborhood Assn., Thomas Goddard, 2003
 Community Boating Center, Peter Gengler, 2003; John O’Flaherty, 2018
 Corliss Landing Condo Assn., Judi Braman, 2003; Sam Gavish, 2017
 Downtown Neighborhood Assn., Richard Pezillo, 2018
 Fox Point Boys and Girls Club, Robert Britto, 2003
 Fox Point Neighborhood Assn, John Roney, 2003; Marguerite Schnepel, 2013, 2016, 2018
 Original India Point Park Committee, Bob Schacht, Peggy Sharpe, 2003; Peggy Sharpe, 2016

Jewelry District Assn., Michael Hogue, 2003; Arthur Salisbury, 2016; Sharon Steele, 2017
 Narragansett Boat Club, Rick Richards, 2018
 RI Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School, David Beauchesne, 2018
 Summit Neighborhood Assn., Constance Chesebrough, 2003; Ethan Gyles, 2017
 Vartan Gregorian School, Anthony DeAngelis, 2003
 WBRU radio station, Michael Hong, 2003
 West Broadway Neighborhood Assn., Kari Lang, 2003, 2017

MEDIA: Providence Journal**Editorials, 7:**

“Try to bury the lines,” 4/1/03	“Bury the lines,” 10/30/13
“The power-lines issue,” 12/9/03	“Power-line sticker shock,” 11/20/14
“Bury the power lines,” 6/12/08	“Bury the lines,” 6/28/15
“Power-line burial buried?” 7/25/10	

Op-eds, 5:

“Bury the high-voltage lines” by David Riley, 3/21/03
 “Let’s bury waterfront power lines” by Patrick Lynch, 11/24/14
 “Burying power lines key to RI renaissance” by State Sen. Gayle Goldin,
 State Rep. Chris Blazewski, and City Councilman Seth Yurdin, 3/9/15
 “Bury lines to boost waterfront” by Michael Sabitoni and Sally Lapides, 6/16/15
 “An idea to beautify Providence waterfront” by Peggy & Henry Sharpe Jr., 9/6/16

Letters to the Editor:

“Artists say: Bury the power lines,” 3/23/04. Letter endorsed by 50 RI practitioners of fine arts, ceramics, sculpture, architecture theater arts, and music.
 Multiple letters by other individuals urge burial: 2003-16

PETITION to bury the power lines signed by 2,100 people, 2013-16

Half the signers are people from Providence and East Providence. The other half includes people from all 39 RI cities and towns. Four hundred petition signers commented on why they support burial. Here are three recurring reasons and a sample comment:

- **Boost tourism:** “I want Providence to be as beautiful as it can be so passersby will stop and spend some money,” Lorne A.
- **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.
- **Long-term benefits:** “We only get to do this once. Let’s do it right! For now, and for future generations.” Stephen B.