

Honorable Mayor Elorza:

To get the waterfront power lines buried, we need your support in the next few days.

Important Steps to Take Before June 16

- Get consensus to amend the 2004 Settlement Agreement between Providence, East Providence, National Grid and the RI Attorney General.
- The key remaining item is how to close the funding gap, with \$17 million already raised and \$17 million needed to complete the project.
- The Energy Facilities Siting Board will want to know at its June 16 hearing if a proposal is in the works to close the funding gap through an amended Agreement.

Raising the Shortfall at Minimal Cost to Average RI Ratepayer

- The additional \$17 million can be raised by building it into statewide utility rates, which is how other projects that benefit the state are routinely funded.
- The average RI ratepayer would pay about 12 cents a month, declining annually over 30 years, to permanently upgrade our signature waterfront and its popular parks.

The State Siting Board Can Order the Wires to Be Buried

- Presented with an amended Agreement, the Board can adopt it and order the wires to be buried.
- Under State law, the Board is the final authority on siting decisions, which the Public Utilities Commission carries out.

Why Providence Should Lead

- With most of the wires to be buried on the Providence waterfront, the City has the most at stake and the most leverage over National Grid because so many of its facilities are located there.
- Unless Providence and East Providence can come up with a funding solution soon, National Grid's decade-long effort to delay the project to death will likely succeed.

What Will Be Lost If the Project Fails

- If we let this project die, we will have wasted a chance to remove this blight from our waterfront.
- We will have wasted a chance to create 500 jobs, improve the value and marketability of key development parcels, and reduce the risk of outages by protecting the wires from storms & floods.
- We will have wasted \$17 million that's been raised and dedicated for burial, and will dissipate with no comparable large-scale benefit if the project fails.

The Case for Burial Is Stronger Than Ever

- The I-195 lands in Providence and East Providence waterfront parcels are on the verge of development.
- Burying the wires that detract from the water views of these parcels will make them more attractive to investors, leading to increased tax bases for the two cities.
- The wires loom over four waterfront parks, including India Point Park, which is used by more than 150,000 people a year.
- More than \$1 billion in public funds has been invested in upgrading the area to relocate I-195, improve water quality through the Combined Sewer Outflow project, and build Waterfront Drive in East Providence and the linear park across the Seekonk River connecting the East Bay Bike Path to Providence. Let's finish the job by burying the wires!

6/15

For more information, see fact sheets, maps, photos, etc. at www.friendsofindiapointpark.org.