

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 21, 2017

Linda Cruz-Carnall  
Regional Director  
Economic Development Administration  
The Curtis Center  
601 Walnut Street, Suite 140 South  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3323

Dear Director Cruz-Carnall:

We write in support of the City of Providence's application for funding through the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Investments for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities grant program.

EDA funding would allow the city to make needed road, sewer, and utility improvements to support the redevelopment of a vacant industrial parcel. The site has been targeted for light manufacturing as part of Providence's economic development efforts focused on a New Food cluster initiative. A food cluster is already emerging in the city with its renowned culinary institute -- Johnson & Wales University -- recognized local food scene, access to I-95, and key companies locating here over the past decade, such as United Natural Food, Inc. (UNFI), the nation's largest distributor of natural and organic food.

Further, funding would allow Providence to implement a project that would contribute to local, statewide, and regional economic revitalization by creating direct and indirect jobs, and supporting the regional manufacturing economy. Locally, existing companies near the project area would be able to tie into the new public sewer and benefit from local access improvements. Repurposing a vacant lot for productive use would also enhance surrounding property values.

We support the City of Providence's proposal and request your consideration of this application in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations of your agency. If we can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our offices. Thank you for your time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



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James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



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David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress