

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 13, 2020

Ms. Linda Cruz-Carnall
Regional Director
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
The Curtis Center
601 Walnut Street, Suite 140 South
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Ms. Cruz-Carnall:

We write in support of the grant application submitted by the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) for funding through the Economic Development Administration's Economic Adjustment Assistance program. RIIB, on behalf of the municipalities of Portsmouth, Middletown, and Newport, Rhode Island, would utilize funding for a study to evaluate the condition of U.S. Government-owned facilities and the possible transfer of infrastructure ownership.

RIIB would serve as the lead applicant on behalf of the three municipalities, which make up Aquidneck Island. The western edge of Aquidneck Island houses Naval Station Newport, which is undergoing a Base Realignment Closure program divestiture of assets including Navy-owned roadways, waterlines, sewer lines, and accompanying equipment.

This funding would support a study that would generate an inventory and condition assessment of approximately 18,000 linear-feet of roadways, 65,000 linear-feet of water-lines and accompanying equipment, and approximately 28,000 linear-feet of sewer-lines and accompanying pump stations. This inventory and evaluation would allow for the identification of potential options for the transfer of Navy-owned infrastructure, as well as possible future public and commercial re-use. This study would enable the municipalities to recognize potential benefits of streamlining public services, increasing economic development opportunities, and improving public transportation, and could ultimately support future economic investments and job creation for all of Aquidneck Island.

We support this proposal and respectfully request your consideration of this application within 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.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Cc: Mr. Alan Brigham, Economic Development Representative for Maine, New Hampshire & Rhode Island, EDA