



DONALD R. GREBIEN
MAYOR



December 11, 2020

Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Re: Docket 5076 – 2021-2023 Energy Efficiency Program & 2021 Energy Efficiency Plan

Dear Commissioners:

The City of Pawtucket has worked closely with Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank over many years, financing wastewater, drinking water, city road projects, and most recently, energy efficiency projects through the Efficient Buildings Fund (the “EBF”). Financing these projects through the Infrastructure Bank has saved the taxpayers and ratepayers of Pawtucket millions of dollars in interest costs over the years.

It is our understanding that the proposed 2021 EE Plan before the Commission includes an allocation of funding for the Efficient Buildings Fund, funding which has been included in these annual plans since the inception of EBF. As a current Borrower in the EBF program and with plans for borrowing from the EBF over the next several years, we are in support of the allocation of \$5,000,000 to the EBF program to support low-cost financing for the City’s energy efficiency projects.

The City of Pawtucket is facing significant budgetary challenges. At the same time we address those issues, we must continue to invest in our school infrastructure, including critical long term comprehensive retrofit energy efficiency projects. The financial benefits provided by the EBF in financing these EE projects, achieved by paying lower interest rates, makes them more financially viable and incentivizes the City to consider aspects of an EE project that might otherwise not be affordable. We also have several major economic development projects initiated in the City which may benefit from financing through the EBF.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and respectfully request that an allocation of \$5,000,000, which is in line with funding from prior years, be made to the Efficient Buildings Fund in the 2021 EE Plan.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Grebien
Mayor