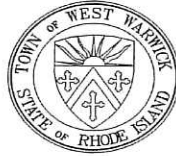


Mark Knott  
Interim Town Manager

Kristen Benoit  
Finance Director



**TOWN OF WEST WARWICK  
TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE  
1170 MAIN STREET  
WEST WARWICK, RI 02893  
401-822-9210**

**March 3, 2021**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**Re: H-5269 - House Corporations hearing bill preventing tax sales for unpaid fire, utility or other unpaid fees**

**Going to share some comments from Christine Suvajian Director of Administration – West Warwick Wastewater Treatment Facility**

“In leu of the H-5259 proposed bill in the House, West Warwick Wastewater Treatment Facility is a regional facility and it could be impacted severely if there is no recourse to collecting unpaid sewer bills. We are a 24-7 operation with fixed costs including debt service owed for infrastructure and upgrades. The Facility is considered to be a Wastewater Enterprise Fund which functions similar to a private business where costs are financed primarily through user charges.”

**The Town of West Warwick is opposed to this bill. We would have no recourse to collect the sewer delinquent taxes if it weren't for tax sale.**

**The town cannot afford to not collect sewer usage and sewer assessment taxes during a tax sale period. For example, the amount for this year's tax sale for sewer accounts that were delinquent as of January 28, 2021 was \$370,141.31 (P&I). Having the sewer accounts subject to tax sale helps the town receive their delinquent sewer payments. Many taxpayers pay their sewer delinquent accounts before the tax sale date.**

**Respectfully,**

**Rosemarie Silva  
Tax Collector - RICTC  
Town of West Warwick**