



June 12, 2023

Chairman Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
House Committee on Corporations
State House – Room 101
Providence, RI 02903

The Hon. Brett P. Smiley
Mayor
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Re: H 6494 and S 0990 – An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Rhode Island Utility Fair Share Roadway Repair Act

Dear Chairman Solomon:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ateesh S. Chanda**
Chairperson
- Joseph D. Cataldi**
Vice Chairperson
- Juan M. Pichardo**
Council President Pro Tempore
- Oscar O. Vargas**
Councilperson
- Sara Silveria**
Ex-Officio
- Cristen L. Raucci, Esq.**
Member
- Dr. Alma M. Guerrero Bready**
Member
- Carissa R. Richard**
Secretary
- William E. O’Gara, Esq.**
Legal Advisor

The Providence Water Supply Board would like to take this opportunity to comment on companion legislation H 6494 and S 0990. Providence Water opposes the passage of legislation which would prohibit us from using rate payer money to fund road restoration/repairs.

Providence Water owns and operates the largest water utility in Rhode Island. We are responsible for supplying affordable, high-quality drinking water to more than 600,000 retail and wholesale consumers throughout the state. Providence Water is prohibited by the RI Public Utilities Commission from making a profit and our operating budget is financed entirely by water rates. If this legislation were to pass into law as drafted, Providence Water would have no mechanism to fund necessary state road restoration expenses incurred during critical infrastructure repair work such as water main rehabilitation and lead service line replacement.

Providence Water strongly supports project coordination. We regularly participate in monthly coordination meetings with the RI Department of Transportation (DOT) and various municipalities. We also conduct our own project progress meetings during the construction season and proactively invite all stakeholders, including DOT and other utilities, to attend and participate.

Providence Water welcomes the opportunity to work with stakeholders to propose language that will address our concerns and urges committee members to oppose the passage of this legislation as currently drafted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Respectfully,
PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD


Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

MEMBER

Rhode Island Water Works Assn.
New England Water Works Assn.
American Water Works Assn.
Water Research Foundation

An EPA WaterSense Partner

(401) 521-6300

125 Dupont Drive
Providence, RI 02907

www.provwater.com

 Follow us @provwater

 Like us at:
facebook.com/Providencewater