May 13, 2025

Representative Marvin Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

        RE: Comment on H-6005

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank serves as the hub of infrastructure financing in the State providing low interest financing and technical support principally to Rhode Island municipalities and water and sewer utilities to fund critical sewer, drinking water, local infrastructure, and clean energy projects. The Bank appreciates the strong support of the General Assembly in providing financial assistance which helps mitigate the local costs for needed infrastructure projects.

The Bank does not receive any state funding to support its clean energy financing programs. The 2021 General Assembly allocated five million dollars directly to the Bank from the demand side management funds collected pursuant to Section 39-2-1.2 to support its clean energy financing programs. These are the only annual funds the Bank can rely upon to support its clean energy programs.

In recent years, the Bank has financed a number of clean energy projects to Rhode Island communities around the State, including to the Providence Water Supply Board, the City of East Providence, and the Towns of Hopkinton, Smithfield, and Narragansett. In addition, the Bank is currently working with other municipal entities on proposed energy efficiency projects which rely on this funding stream.

The Bank has significant concerns with the provisions of H-6005, which, when coupled with the potential recission and/or reduction of federal clean energy program funds, would significantly reduce the Bank's ability to assist communities with financing their clean energy projects in the most cost-effective manner, reducing the impact on local taxpayers and ratepayers.

For these reasons, we ask that the Committee not take any action on H-6005. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

William J. Fazioli
Executive Director