



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE DELIVERS \$850,000 FOR EAST PROVIDENCE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS *Tours Water Pollution Control Plant*

EAST PROVIDENCE, RI – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today toured the East Providence Water Pollution Control Plant with city officials and used the occasion to announce that he had secured \$850,000 for water infrastructure improvements. The federal funds are included in the Omnibus bill approved last week through the FY2004 Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill.

In a meeting last June, Acting City Manager William Conley and City Councilmen Harrington and Ramos requested Senator Chafee's help in securing funds to address aging infrastructure at the wastewater plant. Soon after that meeting, the City experienced a sewer main break that caused raw sewage to flow down Bullocks Point Avenue and caused a section of the roadway to collapse.

“As a former Mayor, I am deeply aware of how an unexpected catastrophic emergency can create a big hole in the City's budget,” noted Senator Chafee. “Water infrastructure was one of my biggest concerns so I wanted to step in to do anything I could to address this problem in East Providence.”

While federal funds cannot be used for expenses already incurred, this funding will help alleviate the budget crunch that this emergency generated by allowing the City to use the money for its infrastructure improvements and deferred maintenance.

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