

## Lou Mansolillo

---

**From:** Heather Meehan <daisyeditionfarm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 1:24 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** HB 5342, SUPPORT

Dear House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Members,  
I own a small cut flower farm in Middletown, RI and have worked for other farms in the state for a number of years. I also have experience working for farmer-facing organizations such as the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Rhode Island (NOFA/RI), and hearing directly from farmers about their greatest challenges.

I am writing today as a farmer and community member in support of Rep. Chippendale's bill, HB5342, which would allow our DEM to recycle money that is collected from our farming community back to our farming community. Our small but strong farming sector continues to provide our state with jobs and revenues, fresh foods, environmental benefits, scenic beauty and cultural enrichment. Rep. Chippendale's bill does not add any costs or new taxes to our state budget but ensures that our farming community receives at least as much financial support as it gives to the state in annual fees.

This bill is especially important now, with the freezing of many of the federal funding programs that have been supporting our farms. Estimates of the amount of federal funding that is now at risk for RI farmers is in the millions. I personally know of multiple farmers who have already invested tens of thousands of dollars into farm infrastructure under federal contracts, only to have their reimbursements currently frozen. Farming is one of the most challenging sectors in which to operate a successful business, but farms are also vital to our food security, economic growth, and sense of community. I ask you to support this practical and low cost bill to support the livelihoods of the farming community in our state.

Respectfully yours,

Heather C. Meehan  
14 Lyndon Street  
Warren RI 02885

--

**the daisy edition**  
*Cut Flowers & Perennial Herbs*  
Newport County, RI  
[daisyeditionfarm@gmail.com](mailto:daisyeditionfarm@gmail.com)  
c: 401.281.9107  
<https://www.thedaisyedition.com/>  
Join our [Summer Bouquet Flower Share!](#)