

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Kelli Roberts <kelli@roots-farm.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 1:47 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee; Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.  
**Subject:** HB 5342, SUPPORT

Dear House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Members,

As a commercial farmer in RI for the past 15 years, I am writing 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.

Sincerely,  
Kelli G. Roberts  
Roots Farm  
217 East Rd  
Tiverton, RI 02878

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