

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Kelli Roberts <kelli@roots-farm.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 9:06 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** HB 5342, SUPPORT

Dear House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Members,

We, the Northeast Organic Farming Association of RI (NOFA/RI), fully support 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.

Formed in 1990, NOFA/RI is an organization of farmers, consumers, gardeners and environmentalists working to promote organic farming and land care practices. NOFA/RI works to increase the acres of sustainably and organically managed land and to provide access to local, organic food for all Rhode Islanders.

The annual fees that our hard-working farming community gives to the state needs to be allocated back to those farms. Our farms not only provide our state with jobs, revenues, and food, but also environmental benefits, scenic , and cultural enrichment. Rep. Chippendale's bill does not add any costs or new taxes to our state budget.

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.

Respectfully yours,  
Kelli Roberts (Vice President)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of RI  
247 Evans Rd, Chepachet, RI 02814

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