



Roots 2Empower

Fostering an equitable, regenerative future.

+1 (401) 696-8132

contact@roots2empower.info

166 Valley Street, Providence, RI 02909

Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear House Environment and Natural Resources Committee members:

On behalf of Roots 2 Empower, a dedicated member of Rhode Island's farming community and an advocate for agricultural education, I am writing to express strong support for Bill HB5342. This bill, introduced by Representative Michael Chippendale and co-sponsored by several esteemed legislators, represents a crucial investment in the future of farming in our state.

HB5342 will provide farmers with much-needed financial and technical resources while ensuring sustainable growth for local agriculture. Specifically, this bill offers:

1. **A Smarter Use of Existing Fees** – HB5342 does not create new taxes or fees. Still, it ensures that the money already collected from farms and agricultural businesses is reinvested directly into the industry that generates it. This helps farmers without imposing new financial burdens on Rhode Islanders.
2. **More Substantial Support for Farmers**—This bill strengthens the farming community by redirecting funds to initiatives such as infrastructure improvements, technical assistance, and education programs. This reinvestment helps small and urban farmers like myself navigate land use, sustainability, and modernization challenges.
3. **Farmer-Led Decision Making**—HB5342 ensures that farmers and farm-related businesses have a voice determining how funds are allocated. This is a critical step toward ensuring that resources go where they are most needed, whether for conservation efforts, soil health, farm business development, or new farming technologies.
4. **Economic and Environmental Benefits**—A more substantial, well-supported agricultural sector contributes to the state's economy, food security, and environmental sustainability. This bill promotes resilient, local food systems by providing resources to Rhode Island farms and ensuring that agricultural businesses thrive while maintaining responsible environmental practices.

As a Rhode Island farmer, I know firsthand how vital state-level support is for the survival and success of small and mid-sized farms. Investing in agriculture is an investment in Rhode

Island's economy, food security, and rural communities. HB5342 is a practical, cost-effective way to support the hardworking farmers who feed our state.

I strongly urge you and your colleagues to vote for Bill HB5342 to ensure a stronger future for Rhode Island agriculture. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional input from the farming community.

Sincerely,



Tarshire Battle
Roots 2Empower
401-696-8132
contact@roots2empower.info