



January 22, 2026

To the House House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

We write as the Senior Rabbi and Executive Director at Temple Beth-El, a Reform congregation serving 850 families in the greater Providence area. The Reform Movement is the largest Jewish religious movement in North America, with 1.5 million Reform Jews and more than 900 congregations that are part of the Union for Reform Judaism.

We offer strong support of House Bill 7071.

At the heart of Reform Judaism is a deep commitment to *tikkun olam*—the Jewish imperative to repair and heal the world. This principle calls us to embrace environmental stewardship, sustainable practices, and care for all of God's creations. For us, justice and compassion must extend not only to human communities but to the ecosystems that sustain life on this Earth.

At Temple Beth-El, this commitment is embodied in our two sustainable native species gardens on our synagogue grounds. These gardens were intentionally planted with local, indigenous plants that support pollinators, protect biodiversity, and conserve water. They serve as living classrooms for our community—where congregants of all ages learn about the interconnectedness of creation and the urgent need for ecological responsibility.

Butterflies and pollinators have returned to our property and we hope to be the inspiration for a pollinator corridor throughout the East Side. Our gardens are a bridge between faith and environmental action. They:

- Promote biodiversity by providing habitat for native pollinators, birds, and other wildlife;
- Demonstrate sustainable land stewardship by reducing and even eliminating the need for chemical fertilizers and minimizing water use;
- Inspire our community by demonstrating the inherent beauty of native ecology, sustainability, and resilience; and

- Honor our Jewish values by modeling respect for creation and sustainable living as an expression of gratitude for the natural world.

House Bill 7071. This legislation aligns with the values we cultivate in our community and underscores Rhode Island's leadership in environmental stewardship. By supporting the principles in H 7071, we affirm that our state's policies reflect a shared commitment to sustainability, ecological justice, and the well-being of future generations.

Native species landscapes like ours are not merely aesthetic enhancements; they are tangible investments in environmental health and community resilience. They remind us that the choices we make today—about land use, water conservation, and ecological protection—have lasting impacts on the world we will hand to our children and grandchildren.

In Jewish tradition, every generation stands at a threshold: we are commanded not only to benefit from the world we inherited but to ensure that it thrives beyond our lifetime. House Bill 7071 is a meaningful step in that direction.

For these reasons, we proudly support the passage of H 7071 and urges this Committee to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Rabbi Sarah Mack, Senior Rabbi

Joie Magnone, Executive Director