

To: RI House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CC: Representative Boylan & Representative Knight

From: Cindy Larson Moura

Date: February 26, 2026

Subject: SUPPORT for H 7736 – Relating to Health and Safety – Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation

Dear Chair Bennett and honorable members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee: My name is Cindy, and I live in Barrington.

I am writing to express my strong support for **H 7736**, which prohibits the use of artificial turf as a landfill cover and establishes a pilot program for pollinator-friendly plant covers. This bill is a common-sense step toward protecting Rhode Island's groundwater and enhancing our local ecosystems.

Why This Bill Matters

- **Eliminating Sources of PFAS and Microplastics:** Artificial turf is a known source of "forever chemicals" (PFAS) and microplastics. Using these materials as landfill cover risks leaching toxins into the soil and groundwater, potentially exceeding state safety limits.
- **Advancing Nature-Based Solutions:** The proposed pilot program for plant and pollinator mixes shifts landfill management toward ecological restoration. Native plant covers prevent erosion, improve soil health, and provide critical habitats for pollinators that are essential to Rhode Island's biodiversity.
- **Climate Resilience:** Unlike artificial turf, which traps heat and can reach extreme temperatures, natural vegetation cools the environment and assists in carbon sequestration, helping the state meet its climate goals.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** The reporting requirements for the Resource Recovery Corporation ensure that we have clear data on artificial turf disposal, allowing for better-informed waste management policies in the future.

Conclusion

H 7736 replaces a hazardous synthetic practice with a regenerative environmental strategy. I urge the committee to provide a **favorable recommendation** for this bill to ensure a cleaner, more resilient Rhode Island. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cindy Larson Moura, Barrington, RI