

Land Conservancy of North Kingstown
PO Box 1499
North Kingstown, RI 02852
lcnk.info@gmail.com

Honorable Chairman Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

CC: Representative Megan Cotter

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

The Land Conservancy of North Kingstown's mission is to preserve the natural and scenic character of its community for present and future generations. We currently protect farms, forests, historic sites, and watersheds for the benefit of the public and wildlife.

We recognize there is a critical need for \$16 Million in additional conservation funding in the FY 2025 Green Economy Bond. Land trusts and conservation organizations partner with the State to utilize federal and philanthropic funds to conserve landscapes, watersheds, and farms that benefit all Rhode Islanders. For every conservation dollar invested by the State of Rhode Island, the conservation community historically raises \$1.70 in matching funds for conservation.

If the Green Economy Bond proceeds *as is* without conservation funding this critical work will become far more difficult. The funding proposed in House Bill 7550 would ensure that there is funding to conserve important forests, farmlands, and open spaces across Rhode Island.

Therefore, We, the Board of the Land Conservancy of North Kingstown, on behalf of our community, respectfully request that you support House Bill 7550 which would add \$16 Million to the Green Economy Bond.

We thank you and the Committee for hearing our concerns.

Sincerely,

Paul Miller, Acting President
Land Conservancy of North Kingstown

