

To the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Donald M. Demers, Ph.D of Woonsocket. As an advocate for farmers, through my ownership of Buxton Hollow Farm Natural Products in RI for the past six years, I am writing in support of H5534. This bill is vital for the success of small and urban farms by allowing them to receive the same tax exemptions that larger farms receive in our state.

Rhode Island has some of the most expensive land prices in the country and therefore forces many of our most productive and thriving farms to survive on land under five acres. I wholeheartedly believe that a farm's tax status should not be based on land size. Given the land prices in this state and the loss of arable land to development, there will only be more small and urban farms in the future.

This bill is important to me because it will directly impact the financial well being of all farms, as well as my small company, in Rhode Island. Your support in making this bill reality is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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Donald M. Demers, Ph. D.
Co-Owner
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