

To the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Ester Bishop. As a commercial farmer/advocate for farmers at Gnarly Vines Farm in RI for the past 10 years, I am writing in support of H5534, which would allow small and urban farms to receive the same tax exemptions that large farms receive in our state.

Rhode Island has some of the most expensive land prices in the country and therefore, many of our most productive and thriving farms are under five acres. I believe that a farm's tax status should not be based on land size. Given the land prices in this state, 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 wellbeing all farms in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,  
Ester Bishop  
241 Cornell Road  
Tiverton RI 02877