

TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

House Finance Committee members,

I am writing in support of HB5534 Urban and Small Farm Success Act because Rhode Island needs legislative action that reflects the real needs of our Ocean State and supports the New England Feeding New England targets. Producer trends are retiring, natural disaster risks are increasing, and crop insurance is daunting. We need small farms more than ever to support and empower our communities. In addition to providing jobs and feeding neighbors, small farms have many environmental benefits that offset emissions in a city environment. They control heat and water retention, minimizes transportation, and improves carbon sequestration. This can be a huge benefit to Providence on a community and national-level.

Supporting urban and small farmers in an equitable and just manner is one way to improve our cities' resilience and food systems. We are a healthier society when we connect to our growers and land, which in turn mitigates risk and improves the economy.

We have the opportunity now to make a difference to protect the livelihood of our neighbors and ecosystems. I urge you to pass this bill out of committee and support it in the full Senate.

Sincerely,

Maggie Sheerin

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