



830 South Road
East Greenwich, RI 02818
401-830-4728 | info@patspastured.com

House Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
Via email: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

RE: Testimony in Support of HB-5536 – Farm Fresh Bonus Bucks Program

Dear Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Pat McNiff, and I am the owner and operator of **Pat's Pastured**, a regenerative livestock farm in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. I am writing in strong support of **House Bill 5536**, which would appropriate \$200,000 to sustain the Farm Fresh **Bonus Bucks Program** through 2026.

At Pat's Pastured, we believe deeply in the power of local food to nourish communities, build resilient economies, and improve public health. Since 2020, we have proudly redeemed **over \$56,500 in SNAP** benefits through this program, and in 2023, we were the **top SNAP redeemer in the state**, turning in **\$16,594 in SNAP tokens** alone.

While Pat's Pastured does not sell fruits or vegetables, the Bonus Bucks program continues to benefit our farm directly. We are one of **112 local farms and food businesses statewide** that don't sell produce but still thrive thanks to the increase in foot traffic and market activity that Bonus Bucks generates. SNAP recipients who come to our local farmers markets for Bonus Bucks incentives often discover and return for our pasture-raised meats, eggs, and value-added goods—building lasting relationships that strengthen both our farm and their access to nutritious food.

The Bonus Bucks program is not only a food security strategy—it is a direct investment in Rhode Island farms and rural economies. It makes fresh, healthy food more affordable for families who need it most, while giving farms like ours the ability to grow, hire locally, and steward the land responsibly.

We respectfully urge you to support HB-5536 and ensure this impactful program continues to serve both Rhode Island families and the farms that feed them.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

Warm regards,
Pat McNiff
Pat's Pastured
Phone (401) 413-9770