

CHARLES B. ALLOTT
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Newport, Rhode Island
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March 3, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House, Room 306
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: Support for House Bill 7127 Article 6 Question 5 (Green Bond)
with Comments – Making the Green Bond Greener!**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Finance Committee,

As a resident of Newport and a constituent of House District 75, I am writing to express my strong support for **H-7127 Article 6, Question 5**, regarding the proposed addition of \$10 Million Dollars in conservation funding in the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond to be placed on the 2026 state-wide ballot.

This investment will ensure that there is continued funding to conserve important forests, farmlands, and open space across Rhode Island. Conserved lands provide ecosystem services that are so important in Rhode Island with such high density populations. Farms, forests, and open space filter and clean our air and water, provide recreational opportunities, keep us healthy and support our local agricultural and tourism economies.

I believe that recently there has been shift in state policy towards the need for affordable housing in Rhode Island which intentionally or unintentionally has taken the focus off of the need for funding for farm, forest and open space protection. This is a mistake as both should be high priorities for funding as they are not mutually inconsistent.

We want to incentivize building affordable housing and mixed-use development in existing urban and suburban centers where infrastructure and transportation hubs already exists. This makes housing more cost-effective to build and maintain. Development in the state's forests and farmlands creates "sprawl," which is the most expensive form of growth for a state to maintain. Extending sewers, roads, and utilities to remote areas increases the long-term tax burden on all residents. By

funding the preservation of open space, Rhode Island incentivizes infill development the right areas.

I speak on this point as a past member of both the Portsmouth and Newport Zoning Boards and over 30-year's experience as a real estate attorney.

Recently, The Nature Conservancy worked with FM3 Consulting on a Rhode Island voter poll related to the Green Economy Bond. Through the poll, we learned that 85% of Rhode Islanders polled don't think that land conservation and affordable housing are in direct conflict or competition - we can do both!

Therefore, I urge the committee to include an additional \$10 Million dollars in additional funding for the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond to be placed on the 2026 state-wide ballot.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles B. Allott".

Charles B. Allott