

February 25, 2026  
House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Abney, First Vice Chair Slater, Second Vice Chair Marszalkowski, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is David Brunetti and I am from Burrillville, RI.

I am writing to provide you with my comments regarding House Bill No. H7127, specifically as it relates to Article 6, Question 5 of the Fiscal Year 2027 budget for the Green Economy and Clean Energy Bonds.

There is a critical need for \$10 Million in additional conservation funding in the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond.

As a member and volunteer of Climate Action RI, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and the Burrillville Land Trust, as well as someone who enjoys hiking in our open spaces in Rhode Island to view wildlife and to enjoy the experience of simply being in nature, I am asking you to include \$10 Million to the Green Economy Bond to ensure that there is funding to conserve important forests, farmlands, and open spaces across Rhode Island, and that we can continue to improve public recreation and that such funds should be allocated as follows:

- \$3 Million in Outdoor Recreation Grants for municipalities and Native American tribes to create playgrounds, conserve important parks and improve access to outdoor recreational opportunities.
- \$3 Million for the State Open Space Program to acquire and conserve lands of statewide interest and significance, including ecologically valuable land that enhances DEM's management areas, parks, and important forest lands.
- \$2 Million in Local Open Space Matching Grants to municipalities, land trusts, and non-profit conservation land organizations to preserve valuable open space in local communities across RI.
- \$2 Million for farmland preservation which is critical to preserving some of the last important farms in the state. RI DEM currently has a backlog of farms that are in

various stages of appraisal or review. Leaving this program unfunded irresponsibly also leaves federal funding on the table.

Additionally, on the topic of the Clean Energy Bond, allocating energy efficiency funding via a bond is not an assured or consistent source of funding for the outlined critical programs. Their needs to be a direct funding for such a program, which has the lowest impact of any program to address not only climate change but reducing energy costs to the consumer.

Therefore, I urge the committee to include \$10 Million in additional funding for the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond. I also urge the committee to directly allocate funding for energy efficiency instead of the risky proposition of doing so via a bond.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with my comments.

Sincerely,

David A. Brunetti  
Burrillville, RI