

George Faucher

Narragansett, Rhode Island

Chairman Marvin Abney

House Finance Committee

Rhode Island House of Representatives

Re: Support for House Bill 7127, Article 6 Question 5 – Add \$10 Million for Conservation in the Green Bond

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

My name is George Faucher, and I am a resident of Narragansett. I am writing in strong support of adding \$10 million in conservation funding to the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond.

When my wife and I made the decision to downsize and relocate from Massachusetts to Rhode Island, we carefully evaluated what mattered most to us in choosing where to spend this next chapter of our lives. One of the things that stood out most clearly was Rhode Island's visible and longstanding commitment to land conservation and outdoor recreation. The work of the Rhode Island Land Trust Council and local land trusts across the state demonstrated that Rhode Island values its open spaces, farms, forests, and coastal resources—not just as scenery, but as essential infrastructure for quality of life.

That commitment was not abstract to us; it was tangible. The access to conserved lands for walking, hiking, and enjoying nature has become an important part of our family life. As grandparents, we want our grandchildren to experience clean water, healthy forests, productive farmland, and accessible outdoor spaces. These conserved lands are not luxuries—they are investments in public health, climate resilience, local food systems, and the state's economic vitality..

Conservation funding is not merely an environmental initiative; it is a fiscally responsible investment. Every state dollar invested in farmland conservation leverages significant federal and philanthropic matching funds. Without this funding, we risk leaving outside dollars on the table while losing irreplaceable open space, forests, and working farms to development.

As someone who chose Rhode Island in part because of its leadership in conservation and recreation, I believe maintaining this commitment is critical to the state's identity, competitiveness, and long-term resilience. The polling data shows that Rhode Islanders overwhelmingly support conservation funding and recognize that land protection and other priorities can coexist. We can build housing, strengthen infrastructure, and conserve our natural resources at the same time.

For my family, this is personal. We chose Rhode Island because it values its land, water, and communities. I respectfully urge you to include \$10 million in additional funding for conservation in the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond so that Rhode Island can continue to uphold the very qualities that make it such a special place to live.

Thank you for your service and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

George Faucher

Narragansett, Rhode Island