

Dear House Finance Committee,

As the co-owner of Roots Farm in Tiverton, and a commercial farmer in RI for the past 16 years, I am writing in support of House Bill 7127 Article 6 Question 5. This bill addresses the critical need for \$10 Million in additional conservation funding in the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond.

This bill is important for our farm and all farmers in RI, as it ensures land access and a strong agricultural sector in our state. This is especially important in RI, where the cost of farmland is the highest in the country.

In addition to running my own farm, I am the president of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of RI (NOFA RI), and from my connections with other farmers in our state, I know that land access is a huge barrier to beginning farmers.

Additionally, as a resident of Tiverton and mother of two children, we deeply appreciate access to outdoor spaces in our state. It is important to our family and the health of our communities (both physically and mentally) to have access to these green spaces. Conserving outdoor spaces also keeps RI beautiful, a place to be proud to live in, and a place where people want to be.

For the health of our communities, please support the conservation of outdoor spaces and farmland in RI. I urge the committee to include \$10 Million in additional funding for the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond

Sincerely,
Kelli G. Roberts
co-owner & farmer, Roots Farm
president, NOFA RI
217 East Rd
Tiverton, RI 02878