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February 24, 2026

Chair of House Finance, Chairman Marvin Abney

**RE: My Support for House Bill 7127 Article 6 Question 5 (GREEN BOND)**

Dear Chairman Marvin Abney & members of the House Finance Committee,

I am a resident of Pascoag, Rhode Island. I am a retired environmental engineer and I support House Bill 7127. I am unable to attend this hearing concerning this issue. I hope that this (my) official written testimony will be taken as seriously as if I was there in person testifying in front of all of you. I am sure it will.

I am pleased that the Brownfields remediation, the Narragansett Bay Watershed Fund and the Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund were included in the Governor's budget for the Green Bond, **BUT there is no funding for the land and water conservation programs. That is disturbing and frankly I do not understand why these programs were left out. I believe that there is a critical need for \$10 Million in addition conservation funding in the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond.**

I would like to ask that \$3 Million be added for the State Open Space Program which will be used to acquire and conserve ecologically valuable lands that would enhance the DEM's management areas, parks, and important forest lands. I would also like to ask that \$3 Million be added for Outdoor Recreation Grants which would provide matching funds for towns, cities, and Native American tribes for acquisition, renovation and develop of outdoor recreation lands and facilities. I would also like to ask that an additional \$2 Million be added for Farmland Preservation through the Agricultural Land Preservation Commission. It is my understanding that there are approximately 40 farms that have been approved for conservation, but there is not enough funding to go around. I would LOVE for an additional \$2 Million be added for the Local Open Space Grant Program so that municipalities and land trusts can do local conservation work. Open space is so valuable as it protects ecosystems, wildlife, and drinking water sources. (There are so many water sources, including drinking water sources, that are already polluted by "forever chemicals"—PFA—and other dangerous/hazardous chemicals.)

Conservation is a fantastic investment. Protected lands are available to the public for uses including boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, bird-watching, and more! Open spaces protect wetlands which, in turn, protect endangered wildlife. Wetlands also help to filter drinking water sources and thereby protect us (and our children and our grandchildren) from pollutants. Wetlands also help to recharge the drinking water aquifers below....so vital to our drinking water/aquifer levels.

**Conservation of these lands will attract tourists to Rhode Island! It is my opinion that there is a critical need for the additional \$10 Million in order to help Rhode Islanders enjoy our Ocean State!**

Thank you for reading my written testimony.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Sloman  
Pascoag, RI