

April 13, 2026

Re: Support for House Bill #8144

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Ann-Marie Quinn, and I serve as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of Fort Adams Trust. I am writing to you as both a private citizen of Aquidneck Island and as a member of the Fort Adams board. I am asking you to support the House Bill #8144, in particular Section 1(i), which would direct \$5 million in Green Economy and Clean Energy Bond funding to the preservation, restoration, and improved accessibility of historic Fort Adams in Fort Adams State Park in Newport.

The Fort is of such historic significance and truly valued as one of the largest coastal fortifications along the coasts of the United States. It has served as a such a treasured landmark for Rhode Island for over 200 years. Its history is of such interest and undervalued as the significant monument it truly is.

Fort Adams State Park continues to provide over 750+ jobs and generates \$63.9 million in annual economic output. It is considered the highest impact site in the Rhode Island State Parks system. It is irreplaceable both for its economic contribution as well as a point of pride for not only Newport but for the entire state of Rhode Island.

The Fort Adams Trust is committed to the preservation of this precious asset. However, the size of the fort is enormous, necessitating much needed restoration not only for safety but to open areas of the fort that are currently inaccessible to the public due to the precarious condition created by its age and the weather conditions along its coast.

While the Trust continues to fundraise to restore and stabilize the Fort, the \$5 million investment would help tremendously to fund preservation work in a much-needed timely manner.

Anyone who has had the opportunity to hear about and see more of the Fort's place in history is immediately impressed and enthusiastic to see this gem restored and preserved for generations to come.

I respectfully ask for your support, and your vote to advance H8144 so that voters have their opportunity to affirm their support of this landmark in November.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann-Marie Quinn

Treasurer, Fort Adams Trust

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