

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Committee on Finance  
State House, Providence RI 02903

**RE: 2026 HB-8144**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, at the address below.

I am writing to request your approval of \$17.5 Million for the Green Bond, which includes \$10 million to support conservation programs to preserve and care for Rhode Island's forests, farmlands, and open space.

Seven years of service on the state's Agricultural Land Preservation Commission and almost 20 years collaborating with regional farmers and food producers have made the financial challenges facing farmers deeply familiar. I share a grave concern with dozens of colleagues in the food and farming sectors of our economy about the critical need to preserve farmland before our prime agricultural lands are forever lost to development.

Without further funding for Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission, many more acres of RI farmland will be lost in coming years, and with every dollar invested in RI farmland protection often matched by federal and philanthropic funding, this Green Bond investment is of strategic importance to our densely populated state where farmland is the most expensive in the US.

The Green Bond also supports other important state needs, including the protection of drinking water resources and waterways, fish and wildlife habitats, and the stewardship of our remaining wild open forest spaces.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent need. I respectfully request that you approve HB 8144.

Sincerely,

*Bevan Linsley*

Bevan Linsley  
4 Rhodes Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860