

April 4, 2026

Re: Support for House Bill 8144 / [Senate Bill No. ____] — Fort Adams, Section 1(l): \$5,000,000

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Bill Corcoran, and I serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Fort Adams Trust. I am writing in strong support of House Bill 8144 or [Senate Bill No. ____], and specifically Section 1(l), which would direct \$5 million in Green Economy and Clean Energy Bond funding to the preservation, restoration, and improved public accessibility of historic Fort Adams in Fort Adams State Park in the City of Newport.

I am a life long resident of Newport and I have seen Fort Adams go from being a deserted wreck to one of the major economic engines of Rhode Island. If the State of Rhode Island invests \$5 Million Dollars into further restoring the Fort it will repay the State a hundred times over. Please continue the great work of restoring and preserving the Fort!!

Fort Adams is the largest coastal fortification in the United States - a National Historic Landmark that has stood at the entrance to Narragansett Bay for nearly 200 years. According to a University of Rhode Island study commissioned by DEM, Fort Adams State Park generates \$63.9 million in annual economic output and supports 750+ jobs, making it the highest-impact site in the Rhode Island State Parks system. It is irreplaceable - as a historic asset, as an economic engine, and as a point of pride for Newport and for Rhode Island.

The Trust has invested millions in stabilization and restoration, and we are committed stewards. But the scale of the fortification is immense and coastal conditions are unforgiving. This \$5 million investment would fund urgent preservation work and open areas of the fort that cannot safely welcome the public without intervention.

I urge the Committee to support and advance H8144 / [Senate Bill No. ____] so that Rhode Island voters have the opportunity to affirm their support for this landmark in November. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

William J. Corcoran

Board Member, Fort Adams Trust