

April 14, 2026

Re: House Bill 8144

To the Rhode Island State Legislature,

We write today as the parents of a 14 year old Girl Scout who is an active member in the Mariner Troop with Girl Scouts of Southern New England (GSSNE). Our daughter has been a Girl Scout since she started Kindergarten and joined the Mariner Troop in 7th grade and has been active in the wonderful programs offered by this remarkable troop.

Through the Mariner Troop she has participated in hands on STEM, Save the Bay classes on local marine life, tours of Narragansett Bay, a behind the scenes tour at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, sailing on the Narragansett Bay, kayaking in a salt pond, an oyster farm tour, beach clean ups, and more.

Each of these experiences reinforces the importance of environmental stewardship, the delicate balance of fragile ecosystems and developing leadership for girls who are passionate about protecting our natural world.

Approving this bill would allow GSSNE to become a leader in the Mariner Program by creating a Mariner Cabin and Program Center at Camp Rocky Farm in Newport, Rhode Island. Located between 2 freshwater ponds and steps from the ocean. This site would allow Girl Scouts from across the county to learn, lead and become stewards of waterways, green spaces, and the natural environment.

Our daughter has benefited tremendously through the Mariner Troop program. She is looking forward to sharing all she has learned with a broader community and teaching future generations of Girl Scouts about the importance of environmental stewardship.

Please vote yes to support this bill!

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Brad and Lessa Shear

Peace Dale, Rhode Island