

April 14, 2026

Re: Support for House Bill 8144

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

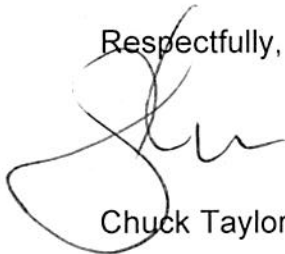
My name is Chuck Taylor, and I serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Fort Adams Trust. I am writing in dedicated support of House Bill 8144 and specifically Section 1(l), which would direct \$5 million in Green Economy and Clean Energy Bond funding to the preservation, restoration, and improved public accessibility of historic Fort Adams in Fort Adams State Park in the City of Newport.

Fort Adams is an important piece of Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay, Aquidneck Island, and Newport history. Today the fort is a significant historical monument and a valuable tourist resource, and a true economic engine for the state. A University of Rhode Island study commissioned by DEM determined that 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.

To continue the mission as a vital piece of the Rhode Island economic and tourist framework, the fort requires restoration, preservation, and improvements for public accessibility/safety. The Fort Adams Trust is committed to preservation and restoration of Fort Adams and is equally committed to always insuring visitor accessibility and safety.

I urge the Committee to support and advance H8144 so that Rhode Island voters have the opportunity to affirm their support for this landmark in November. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Taylor', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Chuck Taylor

Board Member, Fort Adams Trust