



Town of Scituate
Scituate Conservation Commission
Scituate Land Trust
195 Danielson Pike
Scituate, RI 02857



Honorable Chairman Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

14 April 2026

Re: House Bill 8144

Position: FOR (support of a Green Bond with the following requests for additional funding)

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee Members:

As Chair of the Scituate Conservation Commission and a member of the Scituate Land Trust, we respectfully ask you to support HB 8144 which includes \$17.5 Million in additional funding for the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond, including an additional \$10 Million for the conservation programs listed below. As residents of Scituate, we greatly value our open space; however, open space for all to enjoy is limited in our town due to protections around the Scituate Reservoir. The conservation and recreation areas we manage have greatly benefited from previous Green Bond funding, but more is always needed and additional funding is vital, not only to our community, but to the economy of the State of Rhode Island.

Therefore, I strongly support adding \$10 million to the Green Bond for the following:

- \$3 Million for the State Open Space Program through the Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) to bring the program back to historic levels.
- \$3 Million for Outdoor Recreation grants
- \$2 Million for Farmland Preservation administered through RIDEM
- \$2 Million for the Local Open Space Grant Program

Our municipal Conservation Commission and Land Trust volunteers work hard to maintain the 3 small conservation areas we manage. It is imperative that we not only maintain our existing conservation areas but expand them to create protected areas that can sustain these important habitats as the climate changes. Our limited budget does not provide enough funding to maintain and enhance these conservation areas. We struggle to cobble together additional funding from the Town and from outside funding sources, but there's never enough to do what's needed. **Green Bond money is critical to our ability to purchase and keep these beautiful open spaces in good condition and open to the public all year round.**

Therefore, I urge the committee to include \$17.5 Million in additional funding for the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond, including \$10 Million for conservation programs.

Respectfully,

Cynthia M. Gianfrancesco
Scituate Conservation Commission Chair

Cc: House Speaker Shekarchi
Representative Cotter
Representative Quattrocchi
Senator Rodgers