



Good afternoon, Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Dana Borrelli-Murray, and I am the CEO of the Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England. I am here today to respectfully urge your support for H8144, Rep. Megan Cotter's proposed Green Bond, and to speak to the inclusion of our Camp Rocky Farm and the proposed Mariner Cabin and Program Center as a critical asset included in the Green Bond legislation.

The Green Bond has been a critical tool for our state for decades, and we all need to work together with the shared understanding that our natural resources are central to our state's identity and our future.

Camp Rocky Farm is a truly unique, one-of-a-kind property. An 8-acre open space on Aquidneck Island that cannot be replicated or replaced. It has been a continuously run Girl Scout camp since 1950, providing both day and overnight summer camp programs, as well as year-round programs. In a city where open space and tree canopy are increasingly scarce, this site represents an extraordinary opportunity to conserve not just land, but access to nature, to the shoreline down the street, and to the kind of outdoor experiences that are becoming harder for young people to find.

One of Girl Scouts' core pillars is environmental stewardship. Camp Rocky Farm is located on Almy Pond, the second most polluted body of water in RI. It serves as a key wildlife passageway to the water. We've leveraged thousands of dollars toward its remediation, adhere to strong environmental standards, and teach youth to "take action" for change in their community.

Including this property in the Green Bond is, at its core, an investment in preserving open space for the public good. But it is also an investment in how that space is used.

Today, too many of our young people are growing up in a world defined by screens. Heads down, isolated, and disconnected from each other and from the natural world around them. Camp Rocky Farm offers something different. It offers a time to pause, to learn together, in fresh air, a

space to explore, and the simple but powerful experience of being outside. Like everyone here, this is at the core of the Green Bond.

With the addition of the Mariner Cabin and Program Center, we can dramatically expand access to this space. This project will increase our capacity to serve youth across Aquidneck Island beyond our Girl Scout membership, creating the ability to host an additional 500 young people overnight each year in addition to countless more afterschool programs, family stargazing, and weekend STEM activities- while growing our signature Mariner Program, our ocean-based Girl Scouting focused on growing the next generation of blue economy leaders.

The Mariner Cabin allows us to use this conserved land more fully and more equitably—opening it up to more communities, more seasons, and more meaningful experiences, while maintaining its environmental integrity.

This is what smart stewardship looks like: protecting open space while ensuring it remains active, accessible, and impactful for the next generation.

We have a rare opportunity to preserve a special place and expand its reach at the same time. Including Camp Rocky Farm in the Green Bond ensures that this one-of-a-kind property will continue to serve as a refuge, a classroom, and a community asset for years to come.

We respectfully ask for your support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Borrelli-Murray'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'B'.

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