

April 14, 2026  
House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Abney, First Vice Chair Slater, Second Vice Chair Marszalkowski, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is David Brunetti, I am from Burrillville, RI, and I fully support House Bill 8144 for the Green Economy and Clean Energy Bonds.

There is a critical need for \$17.5 Million in additional conservation funding in the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond, with a special need for \$10 Million for conservation programs.

As a member and volunteer for the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and the Burrillville Land Trust, as well as someone who enjoys hiking in our open spaces in Rhode Island to view wildlife and to enjoy the experience of simply being in nature, I am asking you to include \$17.5 Million to the Green Economy Bond to ensure that there is funding to conserve important forests, farmlands, and open spaces across Rhode Island, especially for the preservation and conservation of wildlife habitat. I urge you to allocate such funding as follows:

- \$3 Million in Outdoor Recreation Grants for municipalities and Native American tribes to conserve important parks and improve access to outdoor recreational opportunities.
- \$3 Million for the State Open Space Program to acquire and conserve lands of statewide interest and significance, including ecologically valuable land that enhances DEM's management areas, parks, and important forest lands.
- \$2 Million in Local Open Space Matching Grants to municipalities, land trusts, and non-profit conservation land organizations to preserve valuable open space in local communities across RI.
- \$2 Million for farmland preservation which is critical to preserving some of the last important farms in the state.
- \$7.5 Million for Community Assets for improvements at Fort Adams State Park, to support Mariner Academy & Program Center at Camp Rocky Farm, and other programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with my comments.

Sincerely,

David A. Brunetti  
Burrillville, RI