

April 14, 2026

Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney,

I am writing in support of H 8144 and the Girl Scouts of Southern New England's critical role in preserving land known as "Camp Rocky Farm" located at 160 Carroll Avenue, Newport. I am reaching out as a neighbor of the Camp and as a founding member of the Watershed Protectors, a group of local non-profits dedicated to preserving and improving Almy Pond, a water body which abuts Camp Rocky Farm.

Camp Rocky Farm is uniquely situated in our neighborhood as a camp, marine education center, and steward of open space. The Camp's nearly 8 acre parcel represents one of the largest open spaces around Almy Pond and its environmental impact is augmented by the adjacent undeveloped land owned by the City of Newport. Almy Pond has been the subject of water quality improvement projects which are now led by the Aquidneck Land Trust's Resiliency team. Maintaining open space is critical to the health of the local land and water environments.

The Carroll Avenue area is densely populated and has been subjected to increased development. Maintenance of the Girl Scout Camp's property is vital to the environmental resilience of our neighborhood and the conservation of open space. I therefore wholeheartedly support the Girl Scouts of Southern New England as a recipient of RI Green Bond funds.

Sincerely,

Elena T. Kissel

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