

George Faucher

Narragansett, Rhode Island

Chairman Marvin Abney

House Finance Committee

Rhode Island House of Representatives

Re: Support for House Bill 8144

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

My name is George Faucher, and I am a resident of Narragansett. I am writing in strong support of **House Bill 8144, adding a total of \$17.5 million to the Green Bond, including \$10 million for conservation programs.**

When my wife and I chose to relocate from Massachusetts to Rhode Island, we carefully considered what mattered most for this next chapter of our lives. Rhode Island's clear and longstanding commitment to land conservation and outdoor recreation stood out. The work of the Rhode Island Land Trust Council and local land trusts demonstrated that the state values its open spaces, farms, forests, and coastal resources not just as scenery, but as essential to quality of life.

This commitment has proven tangible in our daily lives. Access to conserved lands for walking, hiking, and enjoying nature is now an important part of our family life. As grandparents, we want our grandchildren to experience clean water, healthy forests, productive farmland, and accessible outdoor spaces. These lands are not luxuries—they are investments in public health, climate resilience, local food systems, and economic vitality.

As someone who chose Rhode Island in part because of its leadership in conservation, I believe maintaining this commitment is critical to the state's identity and long-term resilience. Public support is clear—Rhode Islanders understand that conservation can coexist with housing and infrastructure priorities.

For my family, this is personal. We chose Rhode Island because it values its land, water, and communities. 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, so the state can continue to uphold what makes it so special.

Thank you for your service and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

George Faucher

Narragansett, Rhode Island