

April 14, 2026

Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Committee on Finance  
State House, Room 306  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney,

I'm writing to you as a Newport resident and community leader in support of RI House Bill 8144, funding projects relating to the Green Economy and Clean Energy Bonds. I believe this bill will have an enormous positive impact on the residents, and especially the children, of Newport and Aquidneck Island through preservation of the open space known as Camp Rocky Farm.

I serve as an ambassador for 11th Hour Racing, an organization committed to the health and resilience of ocean systems. In my role, I help to "support innovative, sustainable solutions in the maritime industry and beyond...working to build healthy planetary systems and strong communities." When I became a Girl Scout Troop Leader of Junior Troop 706 in Newport, it was immediately obvious that 11th Hour Racing and Girl Scouting are a natural match.

For my ambassador project, I'm working with Rhode Island's troop of Girl Scout Mariners on a project celebrating the past, present, and future of the Mariner program, which aims to launch young women into careers and fields where they remain underrepresented: marine science, oceanography, sustainable fisheries, coastal engineering, and climate resilience —to name just a few. HB8144 will provide valuable resources to Camp Rocky Farm in Newport, allowing girls and young women to experience expanded programming in these fields in a safe, modern, ADA-accessible facility capable of year-round use.

I've seen first hand the enthusiasm and excitement of children and young adults as they get to know themselves and explore the world around them. There is no more rewarding feeling than watching a young person gain confidence and resilience as they learn and interact with their community and environment, often giving back more than they've received. Preserving this open space for them and for the wider Newport and Aquidneck Island Community would return immeasurable benefits, also positioning Aquidneck Island as a destination for youth-focused maritime education. Our leaders of tomorrow need a strong foundation to tackle the climate related challenges of the future. HB 8144 will offer them the wings they need to fly.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Holly S. Fisher  
4 Pond Avenue  
Newport, RI 02940