

Honorable Chairman Marvin Abney

April 13, 2026

House Finance Committee

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 8144

Position: FOR (support of a Green Bond with the following requests for additional funding)

Honorable Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Michael Carpenter, I am a board member of the Scituate Land Trust. I am writing today to support HB 8144, Green Bond funding. I respectfully ask you to support HB 8144 which includes \$17.5 Million in additional funding for the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond, including \$10 Million for the conservation programs listed below. I am a resident of the village of North Scituate, we have various conservation areas and parks within our village, or a short drive away. Improvements at Lawton Farm, near Hope, have resulted from previous Green Bond money. We also own and/or manage three other conservation areas in Scituate, which have benefited from both federal and state grants. But, as you know, funding is becoming highly competitive, and this year's proposed Green Bond money is critical to the work we do.

The need for more such conserved areas and the resources to care for them is clear. Therefore, I strongly support adding \$10 million to the Green Bond as follows:

- \$3 Million for the State Open Space Program through the Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) to bring the program back to historic levels.
- \$3 Million for Outdoor Recreation grants
- \$2 Million for Farmland Preservation administered through RIDEM
- \$2 Million for the Local Open Space Grant Program

As a small Land Trust, our modest budget does not provide enough funding to maintain and enhance our conservation areas. We pull together additional funding from the Town and from outside funding sources, but there's never enough to do what's needed. Green Bond money is critical to our ability to purchase and keep these green open spaces in good condition all year round.

Thank you for supporting the \$17.5 million in additional funding for the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond.

Sincerely,

Michael J Carpenter,

Bungy Road

North Scituate, RI 02857

