



Town of Scituate

Rhode Island



Scituate Conservation Commission

Scituate Land Trust

Honorable Chairman Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

April 13, 2026

Re: House Bill 8144

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

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee Members:

As chair of the Scituate Land Trust and a member of the Scituate Conservation Commission, 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 Hope in Scituate, and within walking distance of Lawton Farm, which the Land Trust owns, a 54-acre open space parcel managed as a grassland bird habitat and for passive recreation. Improvements at Lawton Farm 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 comprised of volunteers appointed by the Scituate Town Council, our modest budget does not provide enough funding to maintain and enhance our conservation areas. We cobble 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 beautiful open spaces in good condition and open to the public all year round.

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

Sincerely,

Robert Bower, Chair, Scituate Land Trust
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Hope, RI 02831
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cc: Representative Megan Cotter