

April 29, 2026

Chair Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
State of RI General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cassidy Whipple, I'm a constituent from Richmond, Rhode Island and owner of Frontier Farm, a commercial vegetable farm in Westerly, Rhode Island. I'm writing to express my strong support for House Bill 7242.

For the last 11 years, I've worked in the commercial agriculture industry here in Rhode Island. After graduating from the University of Rhode Island, I spent 4 years learning all I could from the expertise and wisdom of other local farmers. Then, in 2019, I was able to start my own commercial farm business on 2.5 acres in Westerly. Since then, I've had the pleasure of feeding thousands of community members, creating a handful of jobs and internships, providing hundreds of children with the opportunity to experience a real, working farm, and contributing to our local economy by working with other local businesses. Not to mention the absolute dream come true it is to work the land every day.

As you may know, Rhode Island has the most expensive farmland in the United States with the least amount of farmland available. Naturally, this causes many farmers to create urban and small-scale operations. These farmers work tirelessly to provide food for our communities, especially during times of national supply chain disruptions, rising fuel and input costs, natural disasters, and public health crises. Farming is an inherently difficult job with little financial incentive - it's time to take the next logical step to support our local farmers by providing the same tax relief programs their large-scale counterparts enjoy.

Rhode Island has a strong network of nearly 200 urban and small-scale farmers, and H7242 will continue to grow and strengthen that network. Farmers with more financial security will be able to continue farming for the long term and make decisions that positively affect their workers, communities, and the environment. Additionally, a model of financially successful farms unburdened by tax liabilities will allow young and beginning farmers to feel more secure in their career choice, strengthening the future of farming for the next generation. The positive ripple effects of this bill cannot be overstated. Therefore, I urge the Committee to support House Bill 7242.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cassidy Whipple". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cassidy Whipple