

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I'm writing to bring your attention to an issue and a piece of legislation that affects many local residents in Richmond, surrounding towns, as well as communities throughout Rhode Island.

Over the last 30 years, our state has seen tremendous growth in the number of small and urban farms. There are now around 80 urban farms and 170 small farms located all over Rhode Island, and several of them are located in Richmond. These farms provide multiple benefits to their communities and the state: they are small businesses that provide employment; they provide fresh, local food to their communities and local restaurants and food service operations; many employ climate-friendly farming practices that increase soil carbon capture, support biodiversity, and protect groundwater; a growing number are also providing education and job training to the members of their communities.

I urge you to vote in favor of H7242.

Thank you,

Margaret Frazier

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