

Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting H7242 House Finance Committee, April 29, 2026.

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence, Co-VP of Policy for the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) writing with our strong support of **H7242**, by Rep McGaw and colleagues.

We join our colleagues in the RI Food Policy Council in urging you to support this bill, which will help grow our state's local food production, and provide meaningful jobs for the lowest level of RI farmers.

Approximately 38% of Rhode Island households are food insecure, lacking consistent access to enough food for a healthy life. This record-high level represents a severe, growing crisis, with disproportionate impacts on Black (47%) and Latino (55%) households. More local and urban farmers will help us address this problem. H7242 will help[these farmers survive economically. ECRI commends H7242 to you enthusiastically.

Thanks very much for considering my comments in ECRI's behalf.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Trafton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter Trafton
Co-VP for Policy
The Environment Council of Rhode Island