

The Honorable Marvin Abney House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street Providence, RI 02903

SUBJECT: Support for House Resolution 7258

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee: Brandon Family Farm would like to voice support for House Resolution 7258, RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$200,000 TO BE USED FOR INCENTIVES FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES SOLD AT PARTICIPATING BONUS BUCKS OUTLETS IN RHODE ISLAND, by Rep. Donovan, and we thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Brandon Family Farm is a small 20 acre farm in South Kingstown, Rhode Island since 2014 that has been working with Bonus Bucks since it began. We grow over 40 different organic fruits and vegetables that we sell at our farm store in West Kingston. We have many customers that use Bonus Bucks to buy our produce.

House Resolution 7258 authorizes the appropriation of \$200,000 for the Farm Fresh Bonus Bucks Program. Bonus Bucks expand on USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits by matching funds for the purchase of nutritious, locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables. Bonus Bucks are offered at local farmers markets, farm stands, and delivery programs across Rhode Island. This vital program makes fresh healthy foods accessible and affordable for low-income families by doubling the value of SNAP dollars to spend on locally sourced produce. The majority of SNAP benefits go to households with children, older adults, or those with disabilities. The Farm Fresh Bonus Bucks Program addresses a critical need as families in our state struggle to put healthy food on the

table. SNAP nutrition incentives reduce food insecurity and promote healthy communities. Funding Bonus Bucks has a dual impact on addressing food insecurity and farm viability. SNAP incentive programs like Bonus Bucks help close the gap that is created by the extra costs it takes to grow organic produce. We need these programs to assist people in being able to afford organic produce despite its cost.

Please support House Resolution 7258 and include \$200,000 in the FY27 Budget for the Farm Fresh Bonus Bucks Program to ensure access to fresh fruits and vegetables for Rhode Islanders struggling to feed themselves and their families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather and Albert Brandon

Owners/Operators

Real Food RI LLC DBA Brandon Family Farm

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