



CITY OF WARWICK

FRANK J. PICOZZI, MAYOR

Chairman Abney and Committee Members House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Feb. 16, 2022

Re: House Bill 7123 – Governor's FY 2023 Budget, Article 5, Question 3, Green Economy Bonds **Position:**
We support the Green Economy Bond **with increased funding for land acquisition programs**

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee Members:

The Warwick Land Trust, a municipality run committee, has had many obstacles in the last 10 years to overcome the various issues of funding for land. The few forests we have left are in jeopardy of being clear-cut to make room for solar farms, that will destroy what open space we have left and change the dynamics of our city.

The Land Trust is in the present stage of campaigning to obtain an Open Space Bond that will protect over 500 acres of open space/forests and a beautiful golf course that is under review for a zoning change, that will change the landscape to a solar farm. We are asking for a \$15 Mil bond; acknowledging we will not be able to purchase the over 500 acres, but a portion will allow us to stop the despoiling of our prime real estate for the next 35 years.

We are in desperate need of State Funds; we are in competition with the school committee that has presented a \$300 Mil bond proposal for 2-new high schools. It is a slim chance the City Council and Mayor will allow our \$15 Mil to be advanced to the November ballot, but we cannot give up hope.

Please recognize that your present proposal is so low, we do not feel we will have the ability to gain any funding from the State that will help us enough to show our mayor or City Council that we have any kind of support that will benefit us. We are asking for your reconsideration of the funds planned and ask that you more than double your amount proposed.

Sincerely,

Leslie Derrig

Leslie Derrig, Chair
Warwick Land Trust