

Steven Sepe

From: Bevan Linsley <bevan@aquidneckcommunitytable.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 9:30 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Bill H7123, Governor's FY 2023 Budget, Article 5, Question 3, Green Economy Bonds: Amendment Request

Greetings Honorable Committee Members,
I write with a request to amend the Governor's proposed budget to include a \$3,000,000 allocation of funds in H7123 to continue funding farmland preservation in Rhode Island through Green Economy Bonds.

After more than 15 years working directly with RI farmers, and three years of service on the RI Agricultural Land Preservation Commission, I can speak directly to the substantial and significant impact that these bond funds have made, not only to the preservation of open space and the viability of agricultural life in our state, but also as a contribution to the state's economy and the sustainability of a regional food system.

Failing to continue the Green Bond allocations of the past years would have dire consequences for the farmland preservation program, where we see multiple, ongoing requests for preservation aid, effectively, and swiftly shutting down funding allocations that generate millions in matching federal programs and philanthropic contributions.

I urge you to consider amending the draft budget to include funds for this important use.
Respectfully,

Bevan Linsley
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