

Elijah B. Smith

Cranston

Bill # : H7123

Article 5, Question 3 - Green Economy Bonds

Supporter of the Green Economy Bond, advocating for an increase in land conservation funding

To Chairman Abney,

My name is Elijah B. Smith, I am a proud Rhode Islander who is highly concerned with sustainability and the future of our state. I believe state investments in our food system are a necessary act in order to keep Rhode Island thriving, that means investing in our food distribution infrastructure, investing in our ability to provide food access to those who don't have the sufficient means to provide for themselves or their families, investing in our transportation so those that find themselves in areas that do not have nutritious food options have the ability to seek their daily nutrients somewhere else without having to worry about access to transportation, and arguably most importantly of all, investing in our farmers to keep our food production, and distribution within the borders of our state so the revenue generated from those food transactions stays within our food system and continues to re-invest itself within our community.

Our farmers are a vital lifeline in the state, and it is disappointing to see that our available farmland is slowly decreasing as the years progress. There needs to be a change in Rhode Island's treatment and level of preservation of the green-spaces, forests, and farms within the state, which is why I am writing in support of an increase in the funding towards the Green Economy Bond, as a way to put revenue back into our local food system, to keep it stable, and to allow it to grow in the future. As a resident of Rhode Island I want to be proud of the fruits I'm picking up from the grocery store, because I can say that they were grown just a few towns over, within the state. I want to be able to brag to our neighbors in Massachusetts or Connecticut that our percentage of state produced and consumed food is on the rise, and fast!

An increased amount in funding to the Green Economy Bond would allow for resource allocation for agricultural land preservation, forestry conservation, and an overall preservation of our state's environment and food system.

If we want to see a green and thriving Rhode Island in our future, I vehemently as the committee to expand the funding for farming, and open-space conservation