

Chris O'Brien

From: Jesse Rye <jesse@farmfreshri.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:59 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Governor's FY 2023 Budget (H7123) - Green Economy Bond

Bill H7123, Governor's FY 2023 Budget, Article 5, Question 3, Green Economy Bonds

To the Honorable Committee Members -

Rhode Island's Farms are a bright spot in our economy and continue to work to grow Rhode Island's reputation as a leader in regional food systems development. Unfortunately, one of the key inputs for farming to be successful - land - is one of the most scarce commodities in our state.

For the first time in many years, the Governor's Green Bond budget does not include funding dedicated to protecting Rhode Island Farmland. This shuts down the state's successful farmland protection program.

Please reconsider this omission of the farmland protection program from the Green Bond - a program that has been a staple in the Green Bond for the last 10 years and has provided much to Rhode Island's farmers and the future of our state's food system.

The Rhode Island Food Policy Council is recommending a \$3M investment in the program and Farm Fresh Rhode Island supports that recommendation.

Sincerely,

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(he,him,his)
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Visit us every Saturday 9am-1pm year-round at the [Farm Fresh Providence Farmers Market](#). Order local food for home delivery or curbside pickup on [Market Mobile](#) every Monday and Thursday. Visit our [Harvest Kitchen](#) local food cafe in downtown Pawtucket Monday through Friday, 10am-3pm.

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