

To: Representative Craven and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Elise Torello, South Kingstown

Re: **OPPOSE** House Bill No. **7761** - RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS -- PUBLIC USE OF PRIVATE LANDS-LIABILITY LIMITATIONS

Date: February 24, 2026

Dear Representative Craven and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elise Torello and I live in South Kingstown. I am writing to strongly OPPOSE House Bill No. **7761** - RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS -- PUBLIC USE OF PRIVATE LANDS-LIABILITY LIMITATIONS.

I am a life-long nature lover and hiker, and greatly value the open spaces in my town and throughout the State of Rhode Island. There are so many wonderful state parks and management areas at which my friends and I frequently hike, birdwatch, botanize, socialize, and decompress. These special places are not only vital habitat, but are also incredibly important to Rhode Islanders trying to maintain their physical and mental health.

If H7761 were to pass, state and town lands which myself, my friends and family, and so many other Rhode Islanders enjoy could be closed to the public. State and town sources of funding to protect open space for recreation could dry up, as well as initiatives to develop trails and other recreational uses on state and town land.

Thank you so much for considering my concerns about this terrible bill. Please, I urgently ask again that you OPPOSE H7761 so that all Rhode Islanders can continue to enjoy recreating on state and town protected open spaces.

Best wishes,

Elise Torello
2625D Commodore Perry Hwy
South Kingstown