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From: John <hiytun09@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 4:43 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Please support H 8106

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Dear Chair McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, I am writing to encourage you to support H 8106. By prohibiting enforcement of any new restrictive covenants that would prevent a property from being used as a grocery store, this important bill will help ensure that Rhode Island residents have convenient access to healthy food. Powerful supermarket chains often include restrictive covenants in the terms of their commercial leases that ban the construction of new, competing food retailers on the same property even when the chain supermarket closes. Restrictive covenants are not reserved for stores that have closed; often, supermarkets will buy nearby parcels of land, restrictive covenants can eliminate competition and limit food access by stopping a rival store from opening in the same neighborhood. 1 By prohibiting new supermarkets opening in specific locations, often for many years, restrictive covenants contribute to endemic food deserts, high food prices, and fewer options for workers and shoppers in Rhode Island.

I strongly encourage you to end this harmful, scorched earth practice by voting in favor of H 8106.