

March 10, 2025

Honorable Chair Stephen Casey  
House Municipal Government & Housing Committee  
RI State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 5310 – SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Casey and the Members of this Committee,

I am a resident of District 22 in Warwick who strongly believes in the community benefits of both affordable housing, and conservation and land protection. For too long, some members of both coalitions have viewed these important land use choices as being in opposition to each other. I believe that having an affordable home should not mean that you have no access to clean air, clean water, green open spaces, shoreline access and healthy food. Considering land use holistically with a smart growth perspective, RI could achieve huge wins in protecting the most important lands for wildlife, drinking water, clean air and carbon sequestration while prioritizing developing in core areas and around important transportation (public) infrastructure. There will always be places to build new market-rate housing. The major land use pressure in RI requires new coalition building which has already begun, and these issues need support from the government at all levels. House Bill 5310 will form new partnerships and deepen existing relationships in a formal manner. I wish to thank Representative Speakman for introducing this important bill.

The goals of the updates to House Bill 5310 are to increase board members to be seated to the Housing and Conservation Trust Fund Board, create a designated account for the Trust Fund at the RI Infrastructure Bank, and to adjust and improve the Fund allocation between housing and conservation projects. Signing this bill into law is critically important so this Board can be seated as soon as possible and immediately work towards identifying public and private funding streams to start working on these important projects. Thank you for your consideration to support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Maikath', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tyler Maikath  
Warwick, RI