

Dawn Huntley

From: Carol Ayala <carol.ayala44@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:57 PM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: House Bill 6283 - North Smithfield Land Trust Opposed to Forming Municipal Land Trust in Burrillville.

To: Chairman Stephen Casey

House Committee on Housing & Municipal Government

Rhode Island State House

RE: House Bill 6283 - North Smithfield Land Trust Opposed to Creation of New Municipal Land Trust in Burrillville.

Dear Chairman Casey and Committee Members,

The North Smithfield Land Trust has long followed the phenomenal accomplishments of our neighboring organization, the Burrillville Land Trust. That private non-profit organization, and its dedicated and effective team of volunteers, has succeeded in preserving and protecting a substantial amount of land in their rural community.

Their accomplishments and successes are widely acknowledged in the RI land trust community, and serve as an outstanding example of how productive a team of committed members can be. Through considerable hard work they have been awarded multiple grants and raised funds locally to achieve their sizable land protection goals. The Burrillville community benefits greatly from having such a remarkable, dynamic and well-run organization.

In addition to their extensive land protection success, their efforts over the years have expanded into activities that showcase their many properties, help promote all aspects of rural living, and enhance wildlife awareness. These accomplishments only occur as a result of dedicated and engaged members.

Unfortunately, as a result of some recent local political discord, the idea of creating a second municipal land trust in Burrillville has come forward. However, attempting to duplicate the remarkable success of the existing non-profit organization by creating a second entity, would only create confusion and render each organization less effective. I believe Burrillville is best served by recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of their local non-profit organization, and encouraging the Burrillville Land Trust to continue to pursue its ongoing mission of land conservation.

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