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May 6, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
House Committee on Housing & Municipal Government
RI State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Opposition to Bill H6283 – Opposition to Establishing a Burrillville Land Conservancy

Dear Senator Casey:

I'm writing to express my opposition to H6283 and the establishment of the Burrillville Land Conservancy, not to be confused with the Burrillville Land Trust. I oppose this measure because the Town of Burrillville already has a conservancy—the longstanding, non-profit volunteer-run, Burrillville Land Trust, which has served our town well for over 25 years.

While this bill seems to simply be renaming of a conservation entity, it is not that simple. A municipal-run conservancy is at the very least redundant. At worst, it sets up a structure that is open to government overreach, confusion, conflict of interest and unnecessary cost to the tax payer.

There are many residents of Burrillville, like myself, who regard the current Burrillville Land Trust with great esteem, and are grateful for the fact that this organization most recently saved Sweet's Hill from development. Would this have happened with a municipality that is prioritizing growth and business development? The very structure is counter to the mission of a land trust conservation organization.

The current Burrillville Land Trust has been embedded in our community and has been instrumental in providing education, and implementing other conservation measures that have kept Burrillville a rural town. A municipal-run conservancy would only undercut the groundswell of support that this organization receives from the local community and grant funders. It is not necessary, it opens the possibility of conflict of interest and I strongly oppose this bill.

Sincerely,



Colleen Joubert

Resident of Burrillville