



April 7, 2026

Dear Chairman Shanley and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee,

We are writing today in strong support of H7999 to reform small purchasing regulations for food and food supplies. This reform allows greater flexibility at a reasonable level for food procurement by state institutions who currently often have their hands tied in going to the lowest cost qualified bidder.

This bill puts one of the greatest levers the state has – its purchasing power – to work for our local economy and local food system. By increasing the purchasing limit threshold, local farmers, fishers, and food businesses have a better opportunity to gain state contracts, contributing not just to the quality of the food being purchased, but the sustainability of the food system throughout Rhode Island.

When we keep our money local, it rotates through the local economy, and there are more positive effects and fewer negative consequences. This is known as the multiplier effect. For every \$100 we spend at a locally-owned business, an average of \$68 stays in the community. Compare that to just \$43 for an out-of-state corporation. This is true for our personal budgets and businesses' purchasing, and it applies with even greater magnitude to our state procurement dollars.

A simple increase in the procurement threshold – which is revenue-neutral with regard to the state budget – can increase sales and job growth, strengthening local economies. With this one simple change, you have the opportunity to switch on the multiplier effect for our local food system.

We urge the committee to support reforms to state procurement by placing food and food supply purchases of \$25,000 or less under small purchase regulations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica David'.

Jessica David
President