



50 Sims Ave., Space 209
Providence, RI 02909
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March 3, 2026

Chairman Louis DiPalma
Senate Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: RI Land Trust Council Support of House Bill 7127 - Article 6 Question 2 with Comments

Dear Chair DiPalma & Members of the Committee:

The Rhode Island Land Trust Council (the Council) is a coalition of 50 conservation land trusts – mostly all-volunteer, community-based organizations that conserve and steward the land and water resources across the State. These conserved lands provide many benefits to our residents. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve a safe, affordable, and healthy place to live with access to clean air, clean water, open spaces for recreation, and healthy food.

The Council recognizes the critical intersection between land conservation and housing, and we are committed to finding solutions that benefit our natural environment and our communities. To that end, we support House Bill 7127- Article 6 Question 2 - Housing & Home Ownership Bond, but respectfully request an increase to the amount of \$150 Million to the authorization of general obligation bonds to increase home ownership opportunities in Rhode Island.

The Council recognizes that land use is complicated, but we believe that we can conserve our state's most important landscapes and forests, protect farmland, and build all the homes that we need if all interested sectors work together. Over the past few years, we have had the opportunity to collaborate closely with the Housing Network of Rhode Island, HousingWorks RI, and other organizations. Despite being viewed as opposing forces in land use discussions historically, we have found common ground and shared goals. Together, we have identified areas where our missions align, and we have begun to work collaboratively to address the pressing need for planning that encourages both an increase in safe and affordable homes, and encourages the conservation of our most vital natural resources.

We urge the Committee to support an increase to the general obligation bond for Housing and Home Ownership outlined in House Bill 7127 - Article 6 Question 2, bringing the total Bond to \$150 Million.

I would be happy to answer any questions, and urge your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Sayles", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Kate Sayles, Director