



May 18, 2025

Senate Finance Chair Louis DiPalma
and Senate Finance Committee

Re: S 2827, For

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District, I am writing to support Senate Bill 2827 which exempts certain urban and small agriculture activities from sales taxes, real, tangible and personal property taxes and income taxes.

The Northern Rhode Island Conservation District works in partnership with private land owners, farmers, municipalities, state and federal agencies, as well as non-governmental agencies. NRICD is not a regulatory or enforcement agency, but rather provides assistance to those who desire to work as a team to face issues related to natural resource conservation. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, local individuals who provide administrative guidance and focus the actions of the Northern District.

Our organization currently operates Snake Den Farm where we host nine small farmers. We have also developed a People's Community Garden that provides education and growing space for an average of twelve community gardeners each year. We offer the Urban Growers Leadership program to twelve people each year who work with us to improve their knowledge and skills in food growing. Through these and other activities, we are well aware of the many obstacles to successful development and operations of small and urban farms as well as community gardens. Many of which are related to the high cost of land in our state and the need to keep the prices of food low enough for RI families to afford.

Senate bill 2827 will make it so that small and urban farmers benefit from the same kind of tax relief programs that are already in place for larger, rural farms. Therefore, I request that you move this bill out of committee for a full vote in the Senate as soon as you can.

Thank you for your support of S 2827 and small and urban agriculture in our state.

Sincerely,

Molly Allard
District Manager