

May 18, 2026

To the honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Kelli Roberts. I have been a commercial farmer at Roots Farm in Tiverton RI for over 16 years, and I am also president of the board of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of RI (NOFA RI). I am writing in support of S2827 which would allow small and urban farms to receive the same tax exemptions that large farms receive in our state. I speak from experience that small farms can grow a lot of food on a small acreage, as we ourselves grow 25 tons of vegetables on just 1.5 acres on our farm. Small farms play a big role, especially in our small state.

Rhode Island has the highest land prices in the country, and therefore, many of our most productive and thriving farms are under five acres. I believe that a farm's tax status should not be based on land size. Given the land prices in this state, there will only be more small and urban farms in the future.

In addition to running my own farm, with my role of president of NOFA RI and my connections with other farmers in our state, I know that the financial stressors on our farmers is very high. Many farmers have to hold down multiple jobs to make ends meet. Relieving some of this financial burden for our small and urban farms would take some of that financial strain off RI farmers, and also show that RI appreciates its hardworking farmers.

This bill is important to me because it will directly impact the financial wellbeing of many farms in Rhode Island.

In food and farming,

Sincerely,

Kelli G. Roberts

Co-owner & farmer, Roots Farm

President, NOFA RI

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