

April 28, 2026

Re: Senate Bill 3231

To: Senate Finance Committee

Dear Chairman DiPalma,

I am writing to ask that the committee support S3231. I am a member of a municipal land trust and conservation commission, and it is vital that conservation efforts are fully funded by the state, via RI taxpayers that have always supported the work that volunteers do in their communities to help preserve open space, recreation, agriculture, and wildlife. In addition, efforts to support work aimed at conserving open space and supporting a healthy ecosystem helps to mitigate affects of increasingly sped up climate change- when we restore salt marshes, and wetlands, we help flood mitigation and curb pollution, when we conserve open space/forests we help cool the atmosphere and allow trees to take up CO2.

Much of the work our natural environment does goes unnoticed, until it is gone. And it's much more expensive to try to restore ecosystems and habitat then it is to fund it and continue the work already being done.

Please support funding these missing links in the bond: 10 million for conservation efforts, which includes 3 million for State Open Space programs, (incredibly important for the work of land trusts), and 2 million for Local Open Space Matching grants.

Along with open space, agriculture in our state is incredibly important and will become even more so with rising costs for fuel, fertilizer and other goods. We should be supporting this both on a conservation level and a commercial one. Please support the proposed 2 million for this effort.

While these specific items are most directly close to my heart in terms of conservation work, I hope the committee will fully support the 17.5 million in funding proposed to make the Green Bond as effective as it has been in the past. Our taxes should be used to help make life better for everyone in RI.

Thank you,

Annamarie Cimini

Member/ Scituate Land Trust and Conservation Committee