

Attn: *Senate Finance Clerk, Jamie Plume at senatefinance@rilegislature.go*

April 27, 2026

Support for Senate Bill 3231

Dear Finance Committee Chairman Louis DiPalma,

My name is Beatrice McGeoch, and I'm a resident in North Kingstown, formerly of Providence. I have been working in arts, education and the environment here in Rhode Island since 1998, and I am urging support for Senate Bill 3231.

The communities in our state are facing an environmental crisis that can only be addressed effectively with investment in natural environmental health. The forests, wetlands and open spaces that this act protects are the infrastructure that protects us from the worst of climate change related heat and weather.

Further, the health of green spaces impacts the quality and reliability of drinking water for all communities, and that impacts our role as a tourist destination within the regional economy.

I am asking you to include \$17.5 Million for the Green Bond, especially \$10 Million for conservation programs, to purchase property and to staff roles that protect important forests, farmlands, and open spaces. These are actually SMALL investments given the scale of what we are facing, and we owe no less to the generations that are coming after us.

With thanks,

Beatrice McGeoch