

April 27, 2026

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

RE: 2026 SB3231

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, at the address below.

I am writing to thank you for adding \$10 million for land conservation to the Green Bond, and to express my support to the Finance Committee for the bill's passage. This funding for conservation programs to preserve and care for Rhode Island's forests, farmlands, and open space is critical for our state's future.

Seven years of service on the state's Agricultural Land Preservation Commission and almost 20 years collaborating with regional farmers and food producers have made the financial challenges facing farmers deeply familiar. I share a grave concern with dozens of colleagues in the food and farming sectors of our economy about the critical need to preserve farmland before our prime agricultural lands are forever lost to development.

Without further funding for Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission, many more acres of RI farmland will be lost in coming years, and with every dollar invested in RI farmland protection often matched by federal and philanthropic funding, this Green Bond investment is of strategic importance to our densely populated state where farmland is the most expensive in the US.

The Green Bond also supports other important state needs, including the protection of drinking water resources and waterways, fish and wildlife habitats, and the stewardship of our remaining wild open forest spaces.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent need. I respectfully request that you approve SB 3231.

Sincerely,

Bevan Linsley

Bevan Linsley
4 Rhodes Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860