

April 27, 2026

Chair of the RI Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Subject: Please Make the Green Bond Greener and Support S-3231

Dear Chairman and Senate Finance Committee,

As a member and active volunteer with my local land trust organization, and a long time Rhode Island resident I have experienced firsthand the positive results of past Green Bond funds that have delivered welcome results in my community in terms of land preservation. A conservation property in North Smithfield was purchased with the assistance of RI state open space funds and has been an asset to the community in regards to its recreational hiking trails and the scenic beauty of the preserved natural landscape. With land development happening at an ever-increasing pace, it is more important than ever to ensure that funds are available to make it possible to acquire land that will serve to protect natural resources and benefit the general public permanently.

I am strongly urging you to include \$17.5 million to the Green Bond, and most particularly funds for land conservation purposes. What a shame it would be not to provide for the ability to preserve some of our last remaining picturesque farms and lovely green spaces that make Rhode Island such a beautiful state. Land preservation serves to protect our natural resources; help counter the effects of climate change, support habitat for our treasured wildlife, and provide vital recreational opportunities for residents. There are still critical lands of ecological significance and farms that are a key component to our economy and sustainability which will be lost without funds to help support their preservation.

I hope you will understand the profound impact that these funds can deliver for communities and the state as a whole, and that you will support the \$17.5 Million in additional funding for the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond, especially including the \$10 Million targeted for the conservation programs.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Ayala
110 Log Road
North Smithfield, RI 02830
carol.ayala44@gmail.com
401-766-1604