

April 28, 2026

Re: Support for Senate Bill 3231

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Keith Manville, and I serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Fort Adams Trust. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 3231, and specifically Section 1(I), which would direct \$5 million in Green Economy and Clean Energy Bond funding to the preservation, restoration, and improved public accessibility of historic Fort Adams in Fort Adams State Park in the City of Newport.

Growing up in Newport County, Fort Adams has always been the backdrop for my favorite memories, from the energy of the Folk and Jazz festivals to running the Newport 10 Miler. It's the kind of place that feels like a second home, whether I'm there for a wedding, a summer "Music at the Fort" night, or just watching the boats on the water. I spent my own childhood exploring every corner of the grounds, and now getting to bring my kids back for tours feels like a total full-circle moment. There is nothing quite like that feeling of driving over the Newport Bridge after a trip and seeing the fort sitting right there over the bay—it's the ultimate signal that I'm finally home. Having served as a board member for over five years, I've had the chance to both host and attend countless events, seeing firsthand how this landmark serves as the true anchor of our community.

Fort Adams is the largest coastal fortification in the United States - a National Historic Landmark that has stood at the entrance to Narragansett Bay for nearly 200 years. According to a University of Rhode Island study commissioned by DEM, Fort Adams State Park generates \$63.9 million in annual economic output and supports 750+ jobs, making it the highest-impact site in the Rhode Island State Parks system. It is irreplaceable - as a historic asset, as an economic engine, and as a point of pride for Newport and for Rhode Island.

The Trust has invested millions in stabilization and restoration, and we are committed stewards. But the scale of the fortification is immense and coastal conditions are unforgiving. This \$5 million investment would fund urgent preservation work and open areas of the fort that cannot safely welcome the public without intervention.

I urge the Committee to support and advance SB3231 so that Rhode Island voters have the opportunity to affirm their support for this landmark in November. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Keith Manville
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