

April 28, 2026

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 3231**

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Robert McCormack, and I have worked for the Fort Adams Trust for the last two decades. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 3231, and specifically Section 1(l), 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.

While my passions lie in history, preservation and interpretation, my first time visiting Fort Adams was, in fact, during the first Extreme Games hosted at Fort Adams in the mid 1990's. Eventually gaining employment as a guide for the Fort Adams Trust, it has been my pleasure to take countless people, including many school and scout groups through this National Historic Landmark. Fort Adams is not only an incredible educational resource, but it is truly an economic asset to the State of Rhode Island. Through the efforts of many, including and support of the citizens of Rhode Island, in the last 25 years the Fort Adams Trust has made significant gains in making Fort Adams a world-class venue for both education and large public events. Please help keep that momentum going.

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,

Robert McCormack  
Jamestown, RI  
[Rjmcc22@gmail.com](mailto:Rjmcc22@gmail.com)  
401-316-1124