

April 28, 2026

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As the co-owner of Roots Farm in Tiverton, a commercial farmer in RI for the past 16 years, and president of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of RI (NOFA RI), I am writing in support of three important Senate Bills:

**S2441: Compost Fund**

**S3231: Green Bond**

**S2820: Ag Restricted Receipts Bill**

**Senate Bill S2441** will provide incentives and funding for diverting compostable materials from our nearly full RI landfill. As a certified organic commercial farmer, I truly understand and appreciate the value of creating and using compost to grow our food. Because this bill will also fund food waste reduction programs, this will also address food security and food access issues in RI. It is long past time that we re-evaluate and re-structure how we handle waste in our little state of RI, where land is at a premium.

**Senate Bill S3231** will make our Green Bond greener, preserving farmland and open space. This bill is important for our farm and all farmers in RI, as it ensures land access and a strong agricultural sector in our state. This is especially important in RI, where the cost of farmland is the highest in the country. Because of my role as the president of NOFA RI and my connections with other farmers in our state, I know that land access is a huge barrier to beginning farmers.

Additionally, as a resident of Tiverton and mother of two children, we deeply appreciate access to outdoor spaces in our state. It is important to our family and the health of our communities (both physically and mentally) to have access to these green spaces. Conserving outdoor spaces also keeps RI beautiful, a place to be proud to live in, and a place where people want to be.

**Senate Bill S2820** would establish restricted accounts so the fees collected by DEM from farmers would stay with the Division of Agriculture to support our farmers rather than going to the general fund. Our small but strong farming sector continues to provide our state with jobs and revenue, fresh healthy food, environmental benefits, scenic beauty and cultural enrichment. This bill does not add any costs or new taxes to our state budget but ensures that our farming community receives at least as much financial support as it gives to the state in annual fees. This bill is especially important now, with the freezing and cuts of many of the federal funding programs that have been supporting our farms.

Sincerely,  
Kelli G. Roberts  
Co-owner & farmer, Roots Farm  
President, NOFA RI  
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