

April 28, 2026

Honorable Chairman Mr. Louis DiPalma

Senate Finance Committee

RI State House

Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman DiPalma and the Members of this Committee,

My name is Tyler Maikath, and I am a resident of Warwick who serves on the Warwick Land Trust. I am fortunate enough to benefit from protected open space in my community and am writing today in strong support of S.B. 3231, which would add \$17.5 million to the FY 27 Green Economy Bond. I am very passionate about nature, outdoor recreation, farmland and food production, and ensuring equitable access to nature statewide. Within a couple of miles from my house, I can visit protected open space at Rocky Point State Park, Morris Farm, and Rocky Point Blueberry Farm. State funding was essential to fund these land acquisitions. I wish every citizen of Rhode Island was as fortunate as I am to have close access to farms, recreational facilities, wild nature, and to walk, swim, fish, play sports, boat, and birdwatch. I am also very concerned about the impacts of climate change on the ways of life for all Rhode Islanders and on the natural environment and beauty that draws us all closer to our home state.

I was again extremely disappointed that the Governor's budget did not include any funding for land conservation, especially considering how Rhode Islanders have a very positive view of conservation in both Bond ballot results and in research conducted over the years. S.B. 3231 would add this crucial open space funding back to the Green Economy Bond along with very important funding for outdoor recreation, which is always underfunded. These additions to the bill will add great value to the daily lives of Rhode Islanders with more opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and all the benefits that it brings. I strongly advocate for the \$2 million within S.B. 3231 for Local Open Space grants. These grants were not funded in our last Green Bond. Local land trusts, our guardians of open space in RI, cannot protect new open space properties from development without these critical funds. As a father I am very mindful of protecting open space for next generation and so we do not lose all of the benefits that it provides (clean air, water, land access, wildlife habitat)!

The \$17.5 million addition to the Green Economy Bond is an essential investment for the state, drawing tourists from around New England, who spend money at small businesses. Additionally, every \$1 spent by the state on land conservation is matched by \$1.70 in federal and philanthropic funding. I strongly urge the Committee to support this important addition to the Green Economy Bond. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tyler Maikath  
Warwick Land Trust