

Jamie Plume

From: Woody Tasch <woody@slowmoney.org>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 11:52 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: S3231

You don't often get email from woody@slowmoney.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

i'm writing to support the inclusion of an additional \$17.5 million to the Green Bond bill, S3231, especially \$10 million in conservation funding.

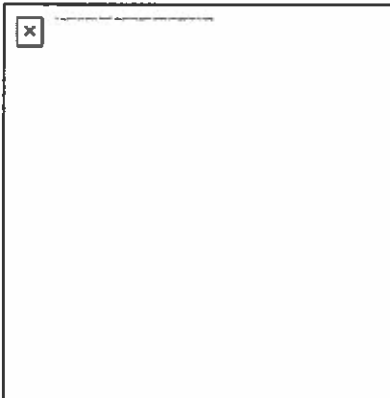
as someone who has been very active in funding small farms around the country (i moved to providence 5 years ago to be near grandkids), i can attest to the powerful impact of small acts of conservation in the food system. local farms are not just luxuries for those who live in a few fortunate zip codes. they are potent nodes for the restoration of mutuality, trust and community resilience--and what's more precious than that these days?

thanks for your consideration,

w.

--

Woody Tasch
Chairman | Slow Money
(508) 325-2882
beetcoin.org



Jamie Plume

From: Hawk and Handsaw Farm <info@hawkandhandsawfarm.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 11:40 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Bill 3231

You don't often get email from info@hawkandhandsawfarm.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am in favor of bill 3231.

RI is in need of funding for conservation of open space and farmland.

As a farmer and long term resident of RI I see where this bill, if passed, can create positive impact.

The risks of not passing this bill are too high. Land is already scarce and high priced. Making this investment now will benefit RI for generations to come.

Thank you for your time.

Signed,

Kidder V Gowen
20 Moitoza Ln
Portsmouth, RI
02871

Co-Owner & Operator
501-308-2872
Hawk & Handsaw Farm LLC
Aquidneck Island, RI

Respectfully, we acknowledge the Narragansett and Wampanoag lineage as the traditional stewards and first harvesters on whose land we meet.

Support current indigenous led efforts by the Tomaquag Museum of Rhode Island and/or the Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust a farm forward tribally run non-profit.

website: www.hawkandhandsawfarm.com
social: @hawk_and_handsaw_farm
email: info@hawkandhandsawfarm.com

Jamie Plume

From: Cindy Elder <cindyelder@blct.org>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 12:34 PM
To: Senate Finance
Cc: Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.; Kate Sayles
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 3231

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Dear Senate Finance Chairman DiPalma,

I am a resident of Barrington, RI and serve as executive director of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust. I am greatly appreciative of your commitment to supporting Rhode Island's precious environment through funding and policy initiatives. I am writing to urge your committee to add \$17.5 million in additional conservation funding in the FY27 Green Economy Bond, with a particular emphasis on the \$10 million for conservation programs.

This issue is near to my heart, as I work with a team of about 120 volunteers -- adults and high school students -- who give more than 1,000 hours of volunteer time every year to care for our conservation lands for the benefit of the public. We are saving taxpayer dollars by conducting trail maintenance, removal of invasive plants, planting of native plants, cleanups and special projects. Not everything can be done by volunteers, however. The acquisition of lands, major projects like bridge building and salt marsh restoration, and many other programs require a shared investment by the people of Rhode Island.

As a small one-town land trust that is part of the larger land trust community, we recognize the importance of including program support in the Green Bond. This affects communities across the state. Our most significant open space acquisitions were made possible by funding partnerships that included state and local funds. Decades later, these properties continue to provide passive recreation in nature for people, while helping to keep our ecosystem in balance. We see first-hand the effects of climate change. Rising seas force us to redirect trails and build new bridges where the old ones have been swept out by king high tides. Preserving our existing open space will become more challenging in the years ahead, and we will need to seriously think about acquiring open space on higher, dryer land.

I am grateful for your continued understanding of these issues and urge the Senate Finance Committee to include the \$17.5 million in additional funding for the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond, including \$10 million for conservation programs.

With gratitude,

Cindy Elder
Executive Director



cell: 508-733-2443
PO Box 324, Barrington, RI 02806

Jamie Plume

From: Justine Allen <justinejallen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 1:41 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Letter in support of Senate Bill 3231; add conservation and open space funding

You don't often get email from justinejallen@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Senators,

Please pass and add more funding for Senate Bill 3231 for conservation and open space grants.

There is plenty of evidence that time outside, in nature, is good for everyone. The benefits include better mental and physical health, a better environment to look at and enjoy, and more habitat for wildlife.

Please conserve some of our last remaining open and wild spaces for everyone, people, plants and animals, past and future, to enjoy.

Thank you,

Justine Allen, PhD
Providence, RI

Jamie Plume

From: Meme Greichen <greichenmeme@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 3:00 PM
To: Senate Finance; Sen. DiPalma, Louis P.
Subject: Support for SB3231

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April 27, 2026

Re: Support for Senate Bill 3231

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Maureen Greichen, and I serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Fort Adams Trust. I am writing to strongly support 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.

I grew up in the Fifth Ward section of Newport. My family and I both enjoyed the landscape of the Fort and appreciated its historical significance to our state. Preserving and maintaining this remarkable structure requires time and a significant financial commitment. I am happy to be a part of that commitment.

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,

Maureen Greichen

Vice President Fort Adams Board of Directors

35 Pages Way

Portsmouth RI

Jamie Plume

From: Joseph R. Marion III <jmarion@whelancorrente.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 3:10 PM
To: Senate Finance
Cc: Sen. DiPalma, Louis P.
Subject: Re: Support for Senate Bill 3231

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jmarion@whelancorrente.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Joseph R. Marion III 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(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.

I have been a board member for six years and have seen firsthand the condition of the fort's structures.

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,

Joseph R. Marion III

Joseph R. Marion III

Partner | [Whelan Corrente & Flanders LLP](#)

127 John Clarke Road, Suite 1, Middletown, RI 02842

Phone 401 270-4500 | Fax 401 270-3760 | 401-529-2098

E-mail: jmarion@whelancorrente.com

Jamie Plume

From: barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 4:44 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: support for S3231 from Barry Schiller with a suggested addition

Dear Senate Finance Committee

This is Barry Schiller writing to support S3231, a "Green Bond" to be submitted to voters that also includes funding land conservation, farmland preservation and local open space. We are a highly developed state and sprawl is spreading. We need to protect natural areas and farms while we still can, for food, for recreation, to help wildlife survive, to keep trees as carbon sinks. Our "green bonds" have always included such protections which is one reason they get strong approval from voters.

I also suggest the addition of \$5 million in the proposed Green Bond for "shared use paths" or "bikeways" as we last had in the 2018 Green Bond, following \$10 million for bikeways in 2016. Those funds were used for projects such as connecting URI to the South County path. But there has been nothing since and our bike program has largely stalled, there has been little to no progress on extending the Blackstone Bikeway, the South County path to the shore, connecting Tiverton, or building anything on Aquidneck Island. For reasons of environment, health, and economy, we do have a societal interest in promoting bicycling, but we need more friendly infrastructure. Indeed the state has approved a "Bike Mobility Plan" about how to build this. But it has not been implemented. In light of the state's fiscal issues I am suggesting the lower amount from those two bonds be added to restart the bike program.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony

Barry Schiller, North Providence
bschillert358@gmail.com.

Jamie Plume

From: NICHOLAS SMITH <smithpavlow@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 4:51 PM
To: Senate Finance
Cc: Sen. Gu, Victoria
Subject: Please support Senate Bill S3231

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Dear Senate Finance Committee Clerk,

The current version of the Green Bond has no funding for land and water conservation programs. Senate bill S3231 adds 17.5 million dollars for important state and local programs: Open Space; Outdoor Recreation Grants; farmland preservation; and Community Assets.

Thank you for your support.

Susan M. Pavlow
Nicholas J. Smith
427 Mautucket Rd
Wakefield RI 02879

Jamie Plume

From: Fred Griffith <fffgrif@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 6:39 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: S3231

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105 Spring St.
E. Greenwich, RI 02818
27 April 2026

Re: S-3231

Dear Senator DiPalma,

I am writing to encourage you to support the addition of \$17.5M to the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond. The Bond as written is notably lacking in several ways.

As a hiker and trail worker on state lands in Arcadia, I see the urgent need for more support for Outdoor Recreation Grants. Outdoor Recreation is healthy, and the preserved lands are essential to the survival of animals and rare species of plants. The forests serve as a carbon sink that create the very oxygen we breathe, while helping to absorb carbon dioxide. They filter our water and reduce flooding and overheating.

The Open Space program helps to add to these critical lands, and it deserves support. Every dollar the state spends on land preservation is matched by \$1.70 from federal and NGO funding. It's a good investment.

I am asking you to include \$17.5 Million to the Green Bond, especially \$10 Million for conservation programs to ensure that there is funding to conserve forests, farmlands, and open spaces across Rhode Island.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Fred Griffith

Jamie Plume

From: Meghan DeCarvalho <meghandecarvalho@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 9:36 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Senate Bill 3231

You don't often get email from meghandecarvalho@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Senate Finance committee,

I am writing in support for Senate Bill 3231 for more funding to be included in the FY2027 Green Economy Bond, **especially \$10M for conservation and \$2M for Local Open Space Grants.**

We love our state for our children's access to green spaces and recently participated in a study on effects of green space on childhood wellbeing and sleep. We love the trails off the bike path and every morning try to get kids to park before school.

Please keep our state special.

**Meghan DeCarvalho
Bristol RI**

Jamie Plume

From: J <heyjay1971@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 2:07 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Bill 3181 & 3231

Good evening,

My name is Jason Romblad, I am a lifelong unaffiliated voter from Woonsocket. I am writing tonight to voice my opposition to bill #3181 & 3231, which will ask the voters of RI to approve another \$160 million in new borrowing, via bond referenda on the 2026 election ballot. This will be added to the \$143 million requested by the house for this election ballot, and the 217 million requested by this committee earlier this year, bringing the current total to \$520 million. These bills do not include the estimated interest charges which average around 59%, so you can add 307 million, just for interest.

Since 2016 and probably longer, Rhode Island's bond interest repayment has averaged more than \$130 million per year. This legislature does this every election cycle, fleecing our tax money by governing on borrowed money. I am not sure how you run your household budgets, but running our state this way is asinine. Just like every legislature before this one, you spend, spend, spend and just add a new tax to burden the Rhode Island citizen. You don't care. You don't even try. So I'm asking that you learn to live within a budget and stop wasting our tax money. Please reject these two bond bills tonight, #3181 & 3231. Thank you.

Jamie Plume

From: Ella Kotner <ellaekotner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 2:37 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Testimony FOR SB3231

Ella Kotner <ellaekotner@gmail.com>

to enatefinance, bcc: isaac



Dear Senate Finance Committee,
Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Ella and I am a resident of Providence, RI. Now is the time to invest in conservation in our state, and there is a critical need for \$17.5 Million in additional conservation funding in the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond, especially \$10 Million for conservation programs to ensure that forests farmland, and open space across Rhode Island can flourish. Rhode Island is one of the most densely populated states in the country, and we have some of the most expensive farmland. That farmland is disappearing fast due to development pressure, putting our food system. Preserving farmland is critical to maintaining a sustainable local food system here in RI.

I urge the committee to include \$17.5 Million in additional funding for the FY 2027 Green Economy Bond, including \$10 Million for conservation programs.”

Sincerely,
Ella Kilpatrick Kotner
Providence, RI