



March 26, 2026

Senator Jacob Bissailon
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02908

Re: The Nature Conservancy Supports S 2704 on Special Ways

The Nature Conservancy supports Senate Bill 2704. We thank Senators Gu, Bissailon, McKenney, Murray, Burke, Mack, DiMario, and Kallman for sponsoring it.

The Nature Conservancy is a global organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Here in Rhode Island, The Nature Conservancy protects more than 15,000 acres of land and has partnered on the permanent conservation of more than 35,000 acres. We do much of our work in collaboration with local partners including land trusts and municipalities.

We are supportive of transparency when it comes to land use and changes to land use. This bill would allow for greater public input when it comes to areas that may have recreational benefit for the community.

The Nature Conservancy is also in strong support of providing accessible ways for Rhode Islanders and visitors to enjoy natural areas. Across the Conservancy, we strive to ensure the public has access to use the preserves we manage whenever possible ecologically, hosting visitors to more than 20 of our preserves in Rhode Island. Our preserves managers are consistently looking for new ways to engage and make our trails and properties accessible where and when appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment.

Sincerely,

Angela Tuoni
Director of Climate & Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy, Rhode Island Chapter