

Charlotte Uwimpuhwe  
53 Wilna St  
Providence, RI  
02904

April 3, 2024

Chairman Marvin Abney  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: House Bill 7684 | Senate Bill 2335- At the Southside Community Land Trust we work with a network of 35 small and urban farmers and more than 400 community gardeners. These farmers and gardeners are often BIPOC, immigrants with English as their second language and immense expertise in growing and distributing fresh food. A number of these farmers took some time out of their farming to share some words about what it would mean to them to see this bill passed.**

Dear Senator Lou DiPalma and Committee Members,

*I'm writing because I live in Providence and I have been farming in RI since 2014, and since childhood in Rwanda and Uganda. I farm because I want to eat my own food and I want to give some to my community, like African veg, and so that I can make (a little) money. The food I grow goes to my family, community, market, food pantries (almost 1000 lbs of fresh vegetables I donated last year) and produce prescription programs. Tax relief will help my business grow.*

In order to continue doing this work, I am asking you to please help pass House Bill 7684 / Senate Bill 2335 which would make tax relief programs available for small and urban farms. The Small and Urban Farms Success Act to ensure that I maintain a livelihood and Rhode Islander's have access to food.

Signed,

*Charlotte Uwimpuhwe*

Name

*Urban Edge Farm (Charlotte's farm)*

Farm Business Name