

Marie Mukabahazi
1776 Bicentennial Way
North Providence, RI
02911

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 North Providence and I have been farming in RI since 2009. I farm because I need to eat good food, with no chemicals and to be able to make a living. Farming helps me relieve stress and take care of my body. I get to work out doors and do exercise and eat healthy food. The food I grow goes to local markets, my home and program 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,

Marie Mukabahazi

Name

Urban Edge Farm (Marie's Farm)

Farm Business Name