

Small and Urban Farms Success Act Supporter Comments

226 Rhode Islander's signed in support of the

Small and Urban Farms Success Act

SB2335 | HB7684

Here are 28 signatures that want YOU to know how important this bill is:

“It is essential the the Senate support Rhode Island's farmers, no more than ever as grocery prices continue to rise! Thank you in advance for your support.”

- **Molly A., Providence**

Small and urban farms make RI resilient in a climate uncertain future. Small, seasonal and local is a great investment for our small beautiful state!

- **Nayeema E., Cranston**

Supporting our urban farmers is a critical foundation for RI's future economy and this sector significantly contributes to our ability to create a flexible, accessible, and resilient food system.

- **Caitlin M., Bristol**

Change is urgently needed in our food system and this tax relief bill for small farmers and growers will strengthen our economy and food supply chain.

- **Bevan L., Newport**

Small farms are all that are left in RI. We need to do all we can to support access to local food

- **Peter W., S Kingstown**

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Any and all steps that help our microfarms and gardens are a win for this state. Get Big or Get Out was a success measured by traditional macroeconomics, but a complete failure for the health of our local economies and individual health. Let RI become a model for how to undo that mistake and rebuild our health from the ground up.

- **Meredith S., Portsmouth**

Support Small and Urban Farms Success Act to exponentially increase market opportunities for local producers.

- **Maggie S., Providence**

Thank you for reaching out. I included an ask to our newsletter readers to sign this petition as well. I hope some folks follow through and this legislation can be passed!

- **Hannah M., Smithfield**

If not now, when?

- **James L., Smithfield**

I heartily support this legislation which will help farmers continue to farm and provide food for themselves and their neighbors and the state.

- **Noel R., Charlestown**

This is a very important initiative, and I on behalf of CC4ES support this initiative because it aligns with food justice that CC4ES advocates with urban gardening and farming through school community collaborative. Thank you.

- **Susan G., Providence**

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I've worked with RI farmers for over 40 years and no one works harder and earns less than farmers. Not only that, farmers are benefiting everyone in RI by preserving land rather than let the land be developed further. We need to help our farmers wherever possible.

- **Heather F., Kingston & Jan E., Middletown**

As a registered nurse I realize the importance of access to healthy food. This initiative will further bolster our local farmers so they can continue their critical work.

- **Karen J., Providence**

Including farms under 5 acres in the tax exemption is particularly important considering the very high cost of land in RI and the barrier that land access poses to our beginning farmers.

- **Rebecca B., Kingstown**

An important issue. Tax relief should be granted to urban and small farms.

- **Susan W., Aquidneck Island**

Please prioritize this important bill to help small and urban farmers benefit from the same programs large farms have benefited from for years. Rhode Island needs more farms and farmers and this bill will help a lot!

- **Andrew M., Little Compton**

Urging you to sign tax relief for urban and small farmers in RI

- **Anna V., Providence**

Not everyone can afford large pieces of land but you can farm on as little as .25 acres.

- **Karen D., Foster**

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At the heart of many small businesses in Rhode Island are small farms. These local farms stir the restaurant and food economy in the state. Local farms and small vibrant food producers give your Rhode Island its identity, attraction for the tourism economy and a strong part of the economic vibrancy we all want to share. Rhode Island respects and encourages small business initiatives and incentives for continual growth.

- **CM Calvin, Barrington**

Respectfully request your support in eliminating sales, property, and income taxes for urban and small (under 5 acres) farms and gardens you will be leveling the playing field for all farmers regardless of size and supporting community priorities, resulting in insignificant tax impacts for the state. Thank you

- **Dora V., Ashaway**

I work in horticulture but didn't add the name because I don't necessarily represent my boss's opinions. Urban farming and food production is important to me, ending redlining and providing nutritious affordable or free options to all Rhode Islanders is a must. Many parts of our state are considered food deserts as well as, in Karen Washington's words, "food apartheid." Food autonomy is something to act towards especially in the face of climate change and the droughts it'll inevitably create. Keeping tax deductions and other services away from the folks who really need it makes no sense now nor for a stable future and I'm happy to sign onto this petition and letter. No one should be hungry or forced to make non-nutritious choices based off their income. Giving urban and small farms the same fair chance at lowered or nonexistent taxing will bring us many steps closer to Rhode Islander's food autonomy in so many ways. Thanks for your hard work!

- **Jillian D., Hope Valley**

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Local farmers = local food = fresh food for RI!

- **Kelly D., Smithfield**

We need to do everything to encourage farming and diverting food waste from the landfill.

- **Warren H., Cranston**

Please PLEASE support farmers. This is integral to our success in food justice/stability/access. Making it impossible land-wise and tax-wise to farm is not the answer.

- **Taryn M., Portsmouth**

Small farms provide local access to food creating resilient communities. Tax relief is important. I also urge you to seek federal subsidies for our farmers like factory farms receive.

- **Linsey W., Providence**

Small farms have continued to grow in number as farmers markets and other community outlets continue to meet the demands for locally grown, fresh produce. They should be supported to continue the contribution they make to their communities.

- **Julia S., N Kingstown**

This tax benefit is very important to our overall future food security and basic health of the underserved and struggling and ambitious sector of our community. It is one small way that we can encourage small local growers and healthy living.

- **Mary W., Providence**
