

April 3, 2024

Sharon Damore
10 Tristan Court
Smithfield, RI 02917

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 Chairman Marvin Abney and Members of the Committee,

I am writing because I live in Smithfield and have been farming in RI since 2016. I've always grown food for myself and my family. I come from a long line of farmers. If I can save money on taxes, like other larger farmers, I can reinvest that in my business. I would be able to grow more fresh, local product for consumers in RI. My garlic is not only fresher, it is organic and free from chemicals. Garlic makes food taste better but is also extremely beneficial for overall health!

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,



Sharon Damore

The Garlic Mistress