

HELP SAVE OUR FARMLAND



*Please support S560/H6018 for \$5 Million
to replenish state farmland preservation funding*

OVERVIEW

RI's farms are important. Investing in conservation is critical to securing our local food system, being prepared for climate change, ensuring that our citizens have clean air and water, and strengthening the state's economy.



ISSUE

As it currently stands, the Governor's FY2024 budget has **NO** funding support the Farmland Preservation Program. Our state funding for farmland conservation is rapidly approaching zero for the first time since 1981.



IMPACT

Without these important funds, the Farmland Protection Program will grind to a halt, and we will lose invaluable farmland to development. Without state matching funds, we will also leave \$8-9 Million in federal dollars on the table.



THERE'S STILL TIME. ACT NOW!

We need \$5 Million to continue the Agricultural Land Preservation Commission (ALPC)

THE FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM IS ESSENTIAL FOR PRESERVING CRITICAL FARMS IN THE STATE.

- RI DEM currently has a **backlog of over 40 farms** that have been reviewed and approved for permanent conservation. Leaving this program unfunded will halt the program altogether.
- Rhode Island has the **most expensive farmland in the country**, making it extremely vulnerable to development.
- Rhode Island farms support our state economy! The farm sector **provides 2,500 jobs and contributes \$250 Million** in direct revenue to the state.
- State farmland conservation is a good investment. **Every dollar spent on farmland conservation in the state is matched by \$1.70** in federal and philanthropic funding.

Without funding to continue ALPC, we will lose thousands of acres of farmland in the next two decades.

WHY CONSERVATION MATTERS

- Polling of RI voters show that water is their highest priority, as well as protecting farms, forests and wildlife habitat.
- Besides the Green Bond, there are **no consistent options** for conservation funding available state-wide. Without additional funding for conservation, we will continue to see the loss of important farmland in the immediate future.

Contact Kate Sayles for more information: ksayles@rilandtrusts.org



*Learn more about the RI Land
Trust Council's advocacy work*

