

## **Green Economy bond is a proven investment in our communities**

### **ELECTION 2016: QUESTION 6**

How would you like to be part of an investment that benefits you - and the economy? You can help to protect Rhode Island's open spaces and farmland, create world-class parks and bikeways, prevent stormwater pollution of water resources, and clean up polluted properties for safe and prosperous development. Oh, and on top of that, there are partners who will add to the investment and deliver even more bang for the buck.

Even better, these funds have a proven track record of success in boosting the state's economic interests while maximizing the value of Rhode Island's natural resources.

You can be part of this special investment scenario by voting to approve the Green Economy bond (Question 6) on November's ballot. It will provide \$35 million to increase and continue many successful ongoing environmental initiatives, an amount that will be matched by community funding and grants that will increase its value.

The bond will help to create conditions that attract innovative and tech-savvy businesses, support thriving local food and arts communities, and enhance public transportation through the creation of pedestrian and bikefriendly transit routes. It will also bolster the economic engine of tourism that already supports nearly 40,000 jobs and generates more than \$3.2 million a year from people who come to enjoy the resources of our historic and beautiful coastal state.

On Aquidneck Island, since 1990 the Aquidneck Land Trust has permanently protected more than 2,550 acres - of which 1,200 acres is prime farmland conserved with the help of the state's open space bonds. There is now the opportunity for the public to again step up and support and continue this commitment to strategic conservation.

In addition, Newport is at the forefront of bicycle advocacy and active transportation planning, and the Green Economy bond promises to advance these priorities. Rhode Island boasts impressive bike paths throughout the state, and the bond will help to complete, connect and expand these paths into a statewide bicycle network. These are the advances that are being championed locally for improved transportation, recreation and tourism. Investment in the state's future through the Green Economy bond is a move that is a wise and rock-solid commitment to Rhode Island's economic health. It is a commitment to environmental health. It is a commitment to the health of all residents of Rhode Island.

This November, please vote "yes" on Question 6, the Green Economy bond.

Everyone will enjoy the benefits for years to come.

**Chuck Allott**, executive director, Aquidneck Land Trust, and **Bari Freeman**, executive director, Bike Newport

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