

# Leading Environmental Organizations Agree... The Best Way to Support Conservation in 2025 is alongside Housing Advocates



*The Housing & Conservation Trust Fund Act is a common sense solution to conserving land and supporting affordable housing at the same time with no current funding required.*

The Housing & Conservation Trust Fund Act is needed and wanted. Formed in 1990, the board was never appointed. The updated bill (H-5310, S-0711) amends the current law to incorporate additional representation and begins the process of appointments, requiring no funding at this time. Rhode Island is in a housing and climate crisis, with needs to maintain clean air, clean water, and quality of life for Rhode Islanders. 2025 is the year to support legislation that does both.

**Please join us by supporting the Housing & Conservation Trust Fund Act  
(H-5310, S-0711)**



**Audubon Society  
of Rhode Island**



Working Alongside: Coalition to End Homelessness, GrowSmart RI, HousingWorks RI, Neighbors Welcome RI, ONE Neighborhood Builders, RI Builders, Housing Network RI, & United Way of RI

**Thank you to Representative June Speakmen and Senator Jacob Bissaillon for their leadership on this common-sense legislation.**

## **Please Support The Rhode Island Housing & Conservation Trust Fund Act H-5310, S-0711**

The Housing & Conservation Trust Fund Act amends a pre-established process from 1990 that supports both housing and conservation projects. The bill requires no funding at this time, but takes first steps towards appointing a board of stakeholders, who will work towards a funding mechanism that is efficient and fair, and addresses housing and conservation TOGETHER. Given the growing housing crisis and urgent need to protect critical land, there is no better time to reinvigorate this opportunity.

If passed, membership on the board would increase from 5-11 members of the public. The legislation also seeks equitable representation from Rhode Island's diverse communities. The appointment process is also updated to ensure the board has enough members to function effectively, especially when funding is involved.

To streamline processes, the bill also names the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank as the financial representative. This organization has proven success in efficiently distributing funds for both development and conservation projects, sets Rhode Island up for success in funding projects quickly and correctly, and takes the onus of distribution off of the state. By adjusting the percentage of funding individually for housing and conservation projects, and encouraging projects that do both at the same time the committee has more leeway to fund the best projects for Rhode Island communities.

This bill is largely modeled after Vermont's successful structure. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) has conserved over 450,000 acres and created 15,000 affordable homes since it was enacted in 1987. Updating the law to re-establish Rhode Island's trust fund is a simple and easy way for our state to take action towards similar outcomes.

To learn more, please contact  
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