



GrowSmartRI
Sustainable Economic Growth
& Quality of Place

March 29, 2010

Representative John J. McCauley, Jr.
Chairperson
House Committee on Municipal Government
Rhode Island General Assembly
State House
Providence, RI 02903

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RE: House Bill 7588

Dear Representative McCauley:

I am writing on behalf of Grow Smart Rhode Island to express our strong support for House Bill 7588, which would authorize the town councils of the towns of North Kingstown and Exeter to provide by ordinance for the transfer of certain development rights.

Grow Smart Rhode Island believes that transfer of development rights (TDR), which is already enabled under Rhode Island law, is a very useful land-use planning strategy. At a time when municipal budgets are stretched thin, TDR offers municipalities a means of ensuring that farmland and forests will remain undeveloped without spending municipal funds to purchase land or purchase development rights. At the same time, the municipalities can direct needed residential and commercial growth to the areas best-suited to accommodate development.

The Town of North Kingstown has led the way for other Rhode Island communities in showing how TDR can be implemented. The Town has put a great deal of time and study into its TDR ordinance, and the ordinance that it has crafted has the support of property owners, the agricultural community, and developers. The legislation that you are considering would enable the Town to increase the ordinance's effectiveness. At the same time, it would support the Town of Exeter's interest in establishing its own transfer of development rights legislation.

We urge your committee to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Scott Wolf
Executive Director