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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE AGRICULTURE LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION'S  
CONSERVATION OF ITS 100TH FARM AND ITS DEDICATED EFFORTS TO ENSURE  
AGRICULTURAL LANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: April 15, 2015

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, In 1981, the Rhode Island General Assembly recognized that land suitable  
2 for food production in the state had become an extremely scarce and valuable resource; and

3           WHEREAS, The amount of good farmland had declined so dramatically that unless a  
4 comprehensive program was initiated by the state to preserve what remained, it would be lost  
5 forever; and

6           WHEREAS, It was and constantly is in the best interest of the people that the state  
7 identifies and acquires the development rights to the remaining land, most endangered by  
8 development, so as to maintain farming, productive open spaces, and ground water recharge  
9 areas; and

10           WHEREAS, Productive farmland within our state was, and continues to be, converted to  
11 other uses because its development value far exceeds its value for agricultural purposes; and

12           WHEREAS, Agriculture is an important part of the state's economy, environment, and  
13 quality of life; and local food production has become increasingly important to the people of this  
14 state; and

15           WHEREAS, In addition, agricultural preservation allows more orderly development, and  
16 permits our cities and towns to plan for and provide services more adequately and at a lower cost;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, Resultantly, in 1981, the General Assembly established an Agricultural  
19 Lands Preservation Commission to conduct the inventory and acquisition of development rights

1 to farmland in this state which has worked diligently to accomplish its mission; now, therefore be  
2 it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
4 hereby commemorates on April 16th of 2015, the Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission's  
5 preservation of its 100th farm, which is the 40.5 acre Lial Acres Farm in Warren. We furthermore  
6 celebrate the preservation of a total of 7,000 acres of farmland within our state, with a sum of  
7 \$100.6 million in land value, while leveraging \$53 million in partner funding from the federal  
8 government, as well as local land trusts, nonprofits, and municipalities; and be it further

9 RESOLVED That this Senate hereby recognizes and applauds the concerted efforts of  
10 Rhode Island's dedicated farming families like the Lials, as well as the dedicated staff, generous  
11 funding partners, the commission's volunteer members, and our state's citizenry who have  
12 supported land preservation efforts statewide, and the Agricultural Lands Preservation  
13 Commission's efforts to continue its mission of permanently protecting the state's farmland to  
14 ensure this important and valuable state asset remains available for agriculture for future  
15 generations of farmers and the citizens of this state to use and enjoy; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Chairperson of the Agricultural Lands  
18 Preservation Commission and the Lial Family.

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