WHEREAS, Productive farmland is being converted to other uses because its
development value can exceed its value for agricultural purposes; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture is an important part of the state's economy, environment, and
quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Local food production has become increasingly important to the people of
the State; and

WHEREAS, The amount of good farmland has declined so dramatically that a
comprehensive program, the Farmland Preservation Act, was initiated by the State to preserve the
State’s remaining farmland; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's policymakers enacted additional legislation and implemented
numerous regulations over the past decade to protect and safeguard the State’s farmland; and

WHEREAS, These laws and regulations have helped preserve the State's farmland; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
serves as the chief steward of the State’s agricultural resources and has diligently worked with
myriad partners to preserve, restore and protect the State’s farmlands; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes that land
suitable for food production in the State has become an extremely scarce and valuable resource;
and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island Department
of Environmental Management to ensure that land that is or has been used for agricultural
operations is further protected, and that when agricultural land is also used for fish and wildlife
purposes, ensure that the fish and wildlife purposes are not detrimental to the agricultural
purposes and operations, and are not detrimental to the land’s agricultural productivity, and that
the fish and wildlife uses be limited to the non-growing season to wit, limit fish and wildlife
purposes to dates between November 1 and March 31 each year, so as not to interfere with the
growing season; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Janet L. Coit, Director, Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management.