

Rhode Island Forest Conservation Commission

House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
RE: Support H 5784 Forestry Parity Act

March 30, 2023

Dear Chairman Bennett and Committee Members:

The Rhode Island Forest Conservation Commission strongly supports H 5784 the Forestry Parity Act. The General Assembly established the Rhode Island Forest Conservation Commission, § 2-27-1, to assess and recommend means to conserve Rhode Island's forests to maintain the multitude of values they provide to all Rhode Islanders. One issue that is clear RI needs forestry professionals to implement good forest management. This act specifically charged the Forest Conservation Commission to: *assess impediments to the expansion of the Rhode Island forest products industry and recommend changes to remove impediments*. The RI Forest Conservation Commission believes it is necessary to help expand the forest products industry by providing these professionals with the same benefits currently being used to assist agricultural operators.

Therefore the RI Forest Conservation Commission respectfully requests that the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee vote to support H 5784.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Scott Millar, Chair
Rhode Island Forest Conservation Commission
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908