

Lou Mansolillo

From: Rep. Bennett, David A.
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 4:28 PM
To: Lou Mansolillo
Subject: Fwd: In Favor of 2024 -- H 7293

Sent to me.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: George Voutes <george_voutes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 3:14:19 PM
To: Rep. Bennett, David A. <rep-Bennett@rilegislature.gov>
Cc: Rep. Speakman, June <rep-speakman@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Lauria, Pamela J. <sen-lauria@rilegislature.gov>; Rep_Knight <jason@jasonknightri.com>
Subject: In Favor of 2024 -- H 7293

Hello Representative Bennett,

I am in strong support of 2024 – H7293) A N A C T RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- OLD GROWTH FOREST PROTECTION ACT).

Reasons I support H7293:

1. Protecting old growth forests is critical to protecting old growth trees / plants and shrubs that combined to create an environmental ecosystem supporting humans and non-human species.
2. Old growth forests in RI are nearly all gone (clear cut for commercial gain). Protecting what is left provides a living laboratory for humans to try and replicate what makes old growth forests successful and apply this elsewhere in the state.
3. Old growth forests provide one of the best ecosystems for biodiversity to thrive. This biodiversity is a key factor in the health of humans and non-humans alike.
4. Old growth forests capture and store carbon. Without these older forests and forest in general, heat trapping carbon will increase more rapidly and result in faster warming of our state and country, while increasing air pollution and respiratory illnesses.
5. Old growth forests are the property of all Rhode Islanders and all non-human species. Allowing destructive logging on our public property for private commercial gain should never be allowed.
6. Young people today are largely not aware of the ongoing decimation of old growth forests (or any forest). If they were and if they knew how to testify, they would certainly support H7293. Think about this for a moment and let it sink in. We are robbing young people of their old growth forests!
7. Protected old growth forests should be available to future generations of Rhode Islanders to enjoy.

The truth is that all woodlands in RI (both public and private) are being cut down at an alarming rate. Just at a time in our climate history when we should be protecting healthy trees and forests and planting more, we (mainly opportunistic land developers, tree companies, landscapers, and ignorant/selfish residential homeowners) are cutting them down unabated. This is a tragic situation and left unchecked, will result is a

tree canopy cover across RI that will no longer sustain life. This is not fiction, but fact based on canopy tree analysis from cities and towns across RI.

Please support this critically important Act. Move it to a full house vote, get the senate to do the same, and let's get this into law asap. We have no more time to spare and no more old growth tree should be cut down every again. Current and future generations will remember all of us, and will thank us for protecting old growth forests that belong to all living things.

Regards,
George Voutes
Bristol, RI