

April 3, 2024

Dear Speaker Shekarchi, President Ruggerio, Chairpersons Bennett & DiMario, Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the Old Growth Forest Protection Act (H7293). Please support this bill. I think it is a critical time to protect our old growth forests in Rhode Island. Protecting our assets that would take more than 50 years to replace seems very important. Protecting our Natural Heritage space is important.

I grew up in Long Island, NY and witnessed the significant loss of green space (it is why I would not return to that area). Our daughter lives in Maine and although it is very green and wild we always notice the loss of green space and old growth areas. Larger states may be able to lose some green space. but it is at a premium in Rhode Island. Anything we can do to help monitor and control that in Rhode Island is critical. I hope you will support the protection of our Natural heritage areas.

I may not understand all the science behind logging old growth forest areas, but I understand enough to realize this is not the best way to deal with climate change and allow logging old growth that will release significant carbon into our atmosphere and then not be around to recover it.

Please support H7293.

Thanks for reading my note.

Sincerely,

*M. Norklun*

Michael Norklun