

**Lou Mansolillo**

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**From:** ann rossman <annrm@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 6:06 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** Comment regarding The Old Growth Forest Protection Act H 5294

For the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Old Growth Forest Protection Act, H 5294.

It is imperative that we preserve all of our R.I. forests on public lands and protect the species that depend on them. As Rhode Island continues to rapidly lose open space to development, this Act would support Rhode Island's climate goals by capturing carbon and providing shade. The prohibition of clear cutting reduces the chance of wildfires which are costly, not only to fight, but because they also impact public health.

Prohibiting logging in our Old Growth forests and requiring environment review before any state logging operations follows science to protect our environment in multiple ways. Creating a Natural Areas Preserve system to protect our Natural Heritage Areas, and bringing back the RI Natural Heritage Program would be a "feather in the cap" for this state which values all types of its' heritage.

I urge you to support Act H 5294. Thank-you in advance for your consideration of my comments.

Respectfully,

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