



February 27, 2025

via e-mail

The Honorable David A. Bennett, Chair, House Environment & Natural Resources Committee
and Members of the House Environment & Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Subject: RI House Bill 2025 – H 5294 The Old Growth Forest Protection Act
SUPPORT PASSAGE

Dear Chairman Bennett and Members of the House Environment & Natural Resources
Committee:

The Buckeye Brook Coalition, a RI State Designated Local Watershed Council under RIGL
Section 46-28-8 Local Watershed Councils, Supports Passage of House Bill 2025 -- H 5294.

House Bill 5294 is a large step forward and covers gaps in current state law definitions. This Bill best defines old growth forests and would establish laws and policy to protect our limited amounts of Rhode Island's beautiful old growth forests and ensure their conservation for future generations of Rhode Islanders. This bill would also prohibit clear cutting of forests to very limited areas of state-owned lands, would prevent destructive and unnecessary cutting down of enchanting and historic trees and reduce the entry of pollutants to waterways.

The Buckeye Brook Coalition Strongly Supports the passage of H 5294.

Thank you for your passing this important RI House Bill.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Zarum, President and Chairman
Buckeye Brook Coalition - A RI State Designated Local Watershed Council and
RI Rivers Council Affiliate
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