

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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**Members of the
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903**

Dear Committee members:

On behalf of our members, supporters, and Board members, I am respectfully requesting committee members to support Bill H-5294.

In 2022, Defenders of Animals was in full support of President Biden when he ordered government scientists to tally old-growth and mature forests on federal land, and Defenders of Animals agreed with William Keeton, a forest scientist at the University of Vermont who believed that the plan that the former President had in mind would have been a hugely positive and a long overdue step in the right direction.

Please consider prohibiting the extractive logging in old growth forests on state-owned land or land owned by a municipality, or a natural area preserve while prohibiting clearcutting in any forest on state-owned land.

Rhode Island now has an opportunity to take that step in the right direction by passing Bill H-5294.

Very sincerely yours,

Dennis Tabella

**Dennis Tabella
Director**