From:	Renu E <renuenglehart@gmail.com>
Sent:	Thursday, February 27, 2025 9:40 AM
To:	House Environment and Natural Resources Committee; Rep. Shanley, Evan P.
Subject:	Support 5294 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- OLD GROWTH FOREST PROTECTION ACT

Dear Honorable Rep. Bennett and Members of the House House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Good afternoon -

I am writing in support of House Bill 5294 Old Growth Forest Protection.

I am a member of the East Greenwich Town Council and a huge fan of Rhode Island's open spaces.

It has come to my attention that the rate our state is experiencing losing mature trees at the hands of logging is alarming. The loss of old growth trees in our state forested areas because it is financially beneficial for logging companies rather than protecting mature and native trees of which our native fauna depend on can never be replaced.

I am a frequent walker in RI DEM properties and I have seen in Arcadia where commercial logging has gone in and removed valuable trees and then sell the valuable lumber. Further, while this might be done under the guise of clearing out dead wood, that is clearly not happening. Many trees removed are not dead and the brush is not removed, creating a worse situation. There appears to be no oversight by RI DEM, the areas I've seen cut are clear cut with nothing left.

The loss of tree cover in this densely populated state is alarming. As climate change creates more extreme temperatures in our state and country, trees and tree cover become more important. We have lost a lot of cover from commercial activities, like solar farms and housing. The job of all us is to protect the state owned properties from logging especially while the federal government is removing protections on federal lands.

Thank you for your consideration and I am available to walk with any of you in Arcadia where this cutting is happening.

Renu Englehart
East Greenwich Town Council

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https://foundation.womenandinfants.org/capital-campaign