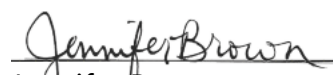


I, Jennifer Brown, born and raised in Rhode Island and with a bachelor of science in forestry, testify for approval of 2025 -- H 5294. Since the 2021 Act on Climate, and with no protection to prevent, there have been devastating forest clearings across the state, hypocritically logged for solar arrays. Unfortunately, we environmentalists who are so concerned did not safeguard what is already providing the best climate mitigation, undisturbed forest. Now, we desperately need to write into law that we value our forests that are working beyond what any human infrastructure could. We need to pass H 5294 to be responsible stewards again and remember our purpose that did not mean harm.

With only 1 percent of forestland considered old, it is imperative to make a concerted effort to permit wooded areas to age in their forest succession. Over time, the stability and carbon absorption are irreplaceable for quality and meaning in life. Our food chain and the interconnectedness of wildlife and microorganisms keep invasive species and pests to minimums. With all the technology of the day, we have a prime opportunity to work with nature without discomfort. Commercial and industrial living convinced many we are apart from biological systems, which has only led to misery. Who vacations near power plants, factories, or mines? Elder generations dream of being immersed in wild places, and shouldn't always have to travel far. Younger generations are sold on the fantasy of internet images of exotic species and places as though they are detached and monetary transactions. There is an easy balance with modern technology and our best consciences when we humbly foster pride in what we are given. Improving areas is to the degree they work with nature.

Please pass this very important legislation that serves to rescue out of the climate crisis through respecting what nature needs to do. Clearly, society is the very strain and stress that extreme weather and mass extinctions are responding to, but we always have the choice to drop our egos and get out of our own way. It's as simple as allowing ecosystems space to make life magical like they'd always done. They provide clean food, air, and water. Excessive digital planning for enormous infrastructure that have their own losses and expenses seem more about justifying paid positions than offering solutions. Rhode Island should take leading steps forward to re-establish our way of life that cares about the sovereign lifespans of those around us, and restore the confidence we were founded on in the power of independent judgement to do what is right. I urge you to vote Yes on H 5294.


Jennifer Brown

February 27, 2025