

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Melanie DeSantis <desantism@psdri.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 1:13 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony Old Growth Forest Protection Act H 5294

Attention House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources :

I am writing to submit testimony in support of the Old Growth Forest Protection Act H 5294. I am a constituent of Westerly, RI, district 38.

With a looming climate crisis, the state of Rhode Island needs to take formal action to protect not just our wetland habitats but also our forests. We are the only New England without these protections of state owned forests in place. Biodiversity is at risk and we are rapidly losing native species due to the encroachment of invasive species and the loss of habitat. Some species only make their homes in old growth forests. In order to protect these species we need to protect and conserve their habitat. I implore the House to pass this Act in order to ensure the preservation of, at the very least, our Old Growth Forests.

Thank you!  
Melanie DeSantis  
Librarian, district 38, westerly RI

**Melanie DeSantis**  
[pronouns \(what's this?\)](#): she/her/hers  
**Librarian**, Fallon Memorial Elementary School  
Pawtucket, RI (historic Wampanoag/Narragansett lands)

*Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of [their] deep and continuing needs, is good for [them]."* -  
Maya Angelou  
I'm Currently Reading, click the cover...

