

H 5294 IN SUPPORT. Michelle Komar

Representative Bennett, Chair of the House Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources and Committee Members:

I support the Old Growth Forest Protection Act 2025 H 5294, which would create the first RI state law to protect forests and biodiversity on public land in Rhode Island, and afford preservation of unique old growth forest ecosystems.

The re-establishment of the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program, which I support, requires State funding for hiring staff and operations, and therefore I suggest this be carved out of H 5294 (as bill amendment) and be presented to this Committee in a separate bill.

I respectfully urge the Committee to vote favorably for H 5294, with possible amendment mentioned above.

Thank you for your consideration to pass this bill.

Michelle Komar

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