

Rachael L. McIntosh

PRO H5294

I am writing in support of H5294, An Act Relating to Agriculture and Forestry—Old Growth Forest Protection Act.

I was recently made aware of the situation at Arcadia, RI where 140 acres of mature forest was clear cut, presumably for fear of wildfire. I do not believe that was the entire reason. Regardless of what the logic was behind the Arcadia clear cut, I was left with “there ought to be a law” ringing in my ears.

Therefore,

I support H5294 because I am opposed to the short sighted destruction of natural habitats and centuries-old, delicate ecosystems.

These old forests are contributing to a better quality of life in more way than one. A non-stop, free for all, cycle of healthy photosynthesis - carbon dioxide being transformed into life giving oxygen tops the list. But there are many more reasons not to disturb old growth forests, including the specter of displaced of wild animals. No one needs hungry wild coyotes or cougars (yup, they’re here) or bears (also obviously here, their existence in RI was formerly denied) roaming through the streets.

Rhode Island is extremely blessed with an amazing climate and local flora and fauna. Why would our people choose to destroy it and deny future generations? Think long and hard on that.

Leave old growth forests alone.

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