

Dear Esteemed Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing in enthusiastic **support of H 5294 AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- OLD GROWTH FOREST PROTECTION ACT.**

As members of the Rhode Island General Assembly, you each take an oath of office to support the Constitution of RI. The RI Constitution states that the people "shall be secure in their rights to the use and enjoyment of the natural resources of the state with due regard for the preservation of their values; and it shall be the duty of the general assembly to provide for the conservation of the air, land, water, plant, animal, mineral and other natural resources of the state, and to adopt all means necessary and proper by law **to protect the natural environment** of the people of the state by providing adequate resource planning for the control and regulation of the use of the natural resources of the state and **for the preservation, regeneration and restoration of the natural environment of the state.**" (emphasis added)

Protecting the old growth forests of RI surely falls within this duty. If you are not familiar with the complexity and sacred value of forests, I highly recommend reading *Finding the mother tree: discovering the wisdom of the forest* by Suzanne Simard. I urge you to vote YES and pass this vitally important bill out of committee so that the full House can then pass this excellent bill. Thank you

Sincerely,

Sheila Resseger, M.A.

co-founder, RI4SafeTech.org

Cranston, RI 02905