

Dear members of the House Environmental and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing in support of H5294, An Old Growth Protection Act.

We are living in an era of environmental awareness. This awareness forces us to consider every measure of preservation available to us, to assist in creating balance in the natural and human made world.

Clearcutting of forests creates carbon emissions which do not comply with the goals of the 2021 Act on Climate § 42-6.2-2. This practice, and the lack of protecting our forests, in particular the old forests which may never come back, seems oppositional to our new perspectives and environmental awareness.

Forests are the lungs of the world which absorb enormous amounts of carbon dioxide. Logging of any natural forest causes loss of biodiversity of plants forests, loss of water and so much damage and loss of habitat to wildlife, which already lose so much habitat due to human development. Not to mention the fact that certain animals, insects, birds, and plants only live in old growth forests.

As the world continues to lose vast populations of important and beneficial plants, some of which we still need time to discover and research for those benefits, it is imperative to save old forests in particular which support these undiscovered and potentially irreplaceable plants.

There are so many reasons to provide protection to our amazing, wonderful, and bountiful old forests. These old forests benefit and sustain so many species, including our own. We owe such a magnificent part of nature protection for today and future generations. This is our duty as good stewards of the state of Rhode Island and the planet.

I ask you to vote yes on this bill.

Thank you.

Veronica Ramos

East Greenwich