

Testimony in support of H7914: Natural Forest Protection Act

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To: Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

The main tenets of this bill should be the focus of it. Rare forest ecosystems deserve protection. Since DEM has not mapped these locations, nor have attempted to protect them, this bill would do both. More mature trees are estimated to be only 1% of our state's forested areas. They provide individualized habitats and benefits to hundreds of creatures needing these specific ecosystems for survival. They benefit soil, water and sequester large amounts of carbon. Since so little of these habitats exist we need state protection now, before they are all gone.