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From: Beatrice McGeoch <beatricemcgeoch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 6:59 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; campaign@bridget4ri.com
Subject: Opposition to H7914

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Dear Rep. Casimiro and members of the House Environment Committee,
I am writing to request that you oppose H7914.

The intention of preserving forests is admirable, but this legislation does not represent an approach that will be effective or feasible.

As an individual with 7 years experience as a Director at a state institution (CCRI), and with recent experience taking a forestry class at URI to better design environmental education programs, I can tell you that the administrative structure this legislation proposes places an unreasonable workload on a single coordinator role which should be (and is already being) covered by a wider team of specialists working at DEM.

We do need to devote additional resources to supporting and growing health forest ecosystems across our state- both for our community health, and the health of the planet, and this will include roles for people working in local forest areas who can know and advocate for the biodiversity living there.

Unfortunately, the staffing described in this bill is not the way to get there.

There is proposed funding for additional DEM roles in this year's budget that might address some of the concerns from those who are putting forward this legislation. If the roll-out of new DEM staffing includes a process to work with community members and support dialog about how we tend protected spaces, that would go a great way toward getting community support efforts to amplify the public investment in protecting forests.

With thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beatrice McGeoch

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