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From: E Jenny K Flanagan <ejennyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 7:56 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: H 7914 should not pass

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Dear Members of the House Environmental and Natural Resources committee -
I respectfully request that H-7914 not be passed. It appears to include findings are not true. The percentage of natural forest on state lands is not diminishing rapidly and state management plans do not allow for unlimited logging.

Next, the bill's definition of old growth forests is inaccurate. There is little old growth forest - or even near old growth forest - in RI, especially on state lands, and thus this cannot be a basis for preserving our forests.

There are additional concerns with this bill. I have been working with the the Warren Land Trust for over 10 years to create conditions in our forests that replicate the conditions of old growth forests. This bill would ban creating a non opening in a forest over 0.20 acre. That would mean that a property owner could not remove two large trees that are near each other. Yet this is a standard practice under the USDA guidelines that we have implemented on our preserves for forest management.

Additionally, banning aged logging means cutting 3 or 4 larger trees in a stand is banned. This effectively bans salvage logging for damage from invasive insects as well.

Finally, this bill's seems to dismantle RIDEM's coordination of the natural heritage system, which is an invaluable resource to land trusts and conservation commissions statewide.

For the above reasons, I am requesting that the legislature reject H 7914.

- Jenny

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