

Lou Mansolillo

From: John Danehy <seasonofwhat@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 10:37 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Natural Forest Protection Act H 7914

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Dear Committee members,

Please support the Natural Forest Protection Act H 7914, which would create the first state law to protect public forests and biodiversity in Rhode Island.

All of the other states in New England have protected Wildlands legislation.

H 7914 would protect rare habitats on public state land through the creation of the Natural Area Preserves listed in the bill.

Rhode Island has very few mature and Old Growth Forests left. As you may know, Old Growth Forests have a myriad of benefits such as high degrees biodiversity, higher resistance to wildfires, improved water and soil quality, fewer ticks, etc.

We are not against all logging - just destructive practices such as clear cutting that cause habitat destruction and deforestation. Environmental reviews should be required before logging on state owned lands.

Rhode Island is home to a number of rare plants and animals, which hold both state and federal listings. H 7914 will bring back the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program to help protect our unique biodiversity.

This is especially important in light of the federal attempts to dismantle environmental protections coming now from Washington.

My family regularly enjoys Rhode Island's great outdoors. I'm a board member of one of our states leading environmental organizations, Trout Unlimited.

I ask you to please pass the Natural Forest Protection Act H 7914, so Rhode Islanders can always be able to enjoy nature in an old undisturbed native forest.

Sincerely,

John Danehy
Rumford, Rhode Island