

Dear Chairman Abney, Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee, and Honorable Representative Meghan Cotter:

Volunteer services for Animals (VSA) is a Rhode Island humane and conservationist organization inquiring about the actual usage of the ten full time positions requested for woodlands, forests, and forestry projects by RIDEM in H5781.

We are concerned that these positions will be used for over-logging, removal of old trees that help to protect air quality, and the subsequent harm to our wildlife.

In your deliberations about this legislation, we ask you to safeguard our public lands from deforestation and be the guardians of Rhode Island's precious wildlife.

We thank you for permitting VSA to submit this testimony via email.

Very respectfully yours,

Joanne Rongo

VSA Chair writing for the board of Directors & Volunteers

Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) founded 1979

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**Spay/neuter is the humane response to overpopulation.
Factory farmed animals are among the most abused animals on
Earth.**

Thank you for helping VSA care for our planet Earth.