

To the House Finance Committee,

I am opposed to the expansion of additional managers in the State Forests as this only adds to the ultimately self-defeating clear cutting in forests already compromised by pressures of climate and insects.

The forests do not recover from either quickly. As trees are killed by insects, invasives grow in the now sunlit floor;

But, the decaying tree still has value in moisture and further hosting of fungi. It takes some time to resume an upward cycle. Bringing in more logging of dead stands leaves slash which is flammable. More contiguous canopy is exposed. The same invasives enter, this time aided with yet more openings. There is a real threat to wildfires spreading by clearcutting.

A better use of monies would be the funding of biologists who are arborists. The use of dry pumps in the event of fires, and aid of trees imperiled by a holistic approach to insects and invasives.

The overall goal is to have a healthy intact, self-sustaining forest. Hiring loggers encourages more problems than this law hopes to solve.

Thank you,  
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