

Good Afternoon Members ,

I am writing to you in opposition to the addition of 10 FTE to the Department of Environmental Management.

The language of this bill is so broad and vague that the general public (such as me) has no idea what these full-time employees will be doing.

I will not reiterate what Nathan Cornell has already very eloquently expressed. I would like to point out that the University of Rhode Island was very recently named one of the highest ranking research universities in the country. They have a superb College of Environmental & Life Sciences. Have they been asked to provide an opinion on this bill and what the 10 FTE will be doing? If not, why not?

Were you aware that recently two URI students identified two bee species in RI that had never been seen here before? Are you aware of the project by URI to reintroduce the New England cottontail rabbit to RI? This is also being done by URI. We need the input of these specialists before we made decisions that cannot be undone.

What other species will be wiped out when planned burnings or logging of old growth trees are done? What will we be losing that we don't even know about?

I live in E Greenwich and there is currently a condo project on Division Rd that has caused a large piece of land to be clear cut. My husband and I have been feeding a feral cat for several months on our deck. Three nights ago, we were visited by a fox, a possum and a raccoon looking for food. Their habitat has been destroyed. We cannot continue to destroy the habitat of wildlife in this beautiful state.

Please do not pass this bill. PLEASE seek advice from environment experts at URI and other institutions and not those who would enrich themselves at the expense of wildlife, centuries-old trees and future Rhode Islanders.

I am begging you as a grandmother of four, avid gardener and beekeeper

Sue Loomis
E Greenwich
Sent from my iPhone