

Chairman Marvin Abney  
Chair of the RI House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

April 14, 2026

**Subject: Oppose Bill H-7243**

Dear Chairman Abney and House Finance Committee,

I am writing to oppose bill H-7243 which appears to increase DEM's manpower capacity to perform logging on state owned forestry land. Recent activity on state forests has appeared to be primarily that of clearcutting of established woodlands, without concern for the destructive nature of the process in terms of wildlife casualties, major soil disturbance, loss of native forest undergrowth and increased potential for forest fires due to the dryness resulting from loss of canopy. Foresters are increasingly more aware that clearcutting is a destructive process that does not benefit the general health of the woodland and are turning to selective cutting practices to remove certain trees without creating major forest disturbance.

For the health of our preserved woodlands, Rhode Island's state-owned forests should not be subjected to major clearcut logging operations. For that reason, I am opposed to bill H-7243 and do not see a reason to increase manpower for logging operations.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

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