

Testimony in opposition to H7243: State Forest and Forestry Projects

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2026

To Chair Abney and the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I oppose H7243, for two reasons:

1. The use of the ten full-time equivalent (FTE) positions is not sufficiently specified: “These positions be used *in part* to focus, support, and expand on the department's efforts in the areas of woodlands, forests, and forestry projects” is too general of a justification. And what does “in part” mean? Will 10%, 50%, 90% of the positions be used in the specified areas, and what is the other “part”?
2. I disagree with the relative priorities between funding the DEM for forestry, and funding EC4 for implementing the Act on Climate. EC4 clearly struggles, lacking resources to expeditiously drive the effort to reach our greenhouse gas emissions reduction mandates. If the ten FTEs would be assigned to EC4, the impact would clearly be higher than spending them on forestry projects—the forests can wait a little in favor of better climate mitigation.

Thank you very much for considering my input.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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