

Chris O'Brien

From: Pet Refuge Programs <programs@thepetrefuge.org>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 5:26 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: Volunteer Services for Animals
Subject: H7243 - State Forestry and Forestry Products -- OPPOSED -- Hearing 4-14-26

Categories: Red category

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Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the Rhode Island House Finance Committee:

Pet Refuge is dedicated to the care and protection of all animals. In alignment with this mission, we oppose the addition of employees to RIDEM for the purpose of continuing clear-cutting and logging programs on our state's public lands.

Wildlife in our region already faces increasing pressure due to human encroachment. The continued loss of habitat places significant stress on local ecosystems, disrupts wildlife populations, and contributes to increased predation on companion animals as natural resources become scarce.

We believe RIDEM should prioritize the protection and responsible stewardship of our public lands. Old-growth forests and their ecosystems are irreplaceable; once they are lost, they cannot be restored to their original state.

We respectfully urge you to ensure that our state's natural resources are protected as you consider this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Pet Refuge.

Jenna L Schmidt
CEO
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