

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

Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) stands opposed to adding employees to RIDEM for continuation of clear cutting and logging programs on our State's public lands.

The broadness of H7243 will give RIDEM authority to unilaterally manage our lands even while there is a Rhode Island organization working mightily to protect the old trees in our forests.

Wouldn't it be good to hear what they have to say and to see what they have discovered?

In your deliberations, please ask what these ten new employees would be doing if not for clear-cutting and logging.

We write to protect the old trees and the wildlife that inhabits these public lands of ours.

Thank you for permitting VSA to submit this testimony via email.

Very respectfully yours,

Joanne Rongo

Chair of the Board of Directors

Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) founded 1979

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Please adopt from a shelter or a humane organization.

Spay/neuter is the humane response to overpopulation.

Factory farmed animals are among the most abused animals on Earth.

Thank you for helping VSA work to protect planet Earth.