

Dear Committee members, I am opposed to H 7243, which would add 10 logging positions to the DEM to support increased logging, including likely clearcutting, on public state-owned land.

The money that would be used to destroy our state forests through funding these logging operations would be better spent on staffing the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program to identify, monitor, and protect biodiversity for the state.

The RI Natural Heritage Program hasn't existed since 2007, and Rhode Island needs this program to protect the state's rare and endangered species whose habitats are vulnerable to logging and development.

Please do not pass H 7243, which is just a deforestation bill, and instead support bringing back the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program.

Kathryn Fassnacht

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