

I am in opposition to Bill H 7243, which will allow DEM to hire 10 new positions to help with logging operations that include the clear cutting of sections of R.I. state forests (including old growth trees)! The only trees that should be logged are, secondary growth trees and trees that are not worth saving due to insect infestation. If these positions were for actually removing all the dead wood that litters our state forests then that would be one thing but I'm pretty sure these positions aren't for clearing deadwood. A very good example of deadwood can be seen along the western section Washington Secondary Bike Path.

Also DEM has very poor customer service! I emailed them about the golden rod and other native grasses that had been taken out along the west section of the path on the 6' hills that border the path (at the end of the summer 2025). The landscaper that did the work for DEM made a moonscape of these hills. The native plants on these hills provided cover for small rodents that the woodland owls feed on. There are two woodland owls in this area. Also the trees at the top of the hills are now more susceptible to falling over due to the vegetative roots systems that were decimated. It couldn't have been for fire prevention because DEM never removed the deadwood in the area. There's a whole lot of dead wood in this area.

Anyways I sent pictures of these hills that cut to the ground and asked them why they would do such a thing. They never returned my emails.

Thank You for your time, Leo Thuotte 18 Great Oak Dr Warwick 02886