

Dear Committee Members,

My husband I are strongly opposed to H 7243, which would add 10 (TEN!!!!!!) logging positions to the DEM to support increased logging, which would likely include clearcutting, on PUBLIC STATE-OWNED land.

This planet is in a climate crisis and cutting down more trees, which cool our Earth and provide habitats for insects, birds and animals is unconscionable. We all need to be working together to help this planet survive. Not weaken it more than it already is.

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

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

Please be a hero and not a destroyer. Please protect MY grandchildren's futures and YOUR grandchildren's futures by spending the RI taxpayers' money wisely. PLEASE DO NOT PASS H7243 (WHICH IS REALLY A DEFORESTATION BILL). Instead spend that money to bring back the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program.

Thank you,

Mike and Susan Loomis

E. Greenwich, RI