

Members of the Committee,

I write to urge your rejection of this bill expanding the timber industry in Rhode Island. I oppose it for the same reasons I have opposed similar legislation in the past -- H471, H7243, H7914, and others. What "parity" is there here? This bill would create a publicly subsidized timber industry we don't need. Only the industry does, to increase profits from clearcutting forests. Other uses, consequences, and public costs are ignored. Natural forests are not tree farms, not agricultural "crops". They are shaped by nature and like many things don't need human "management" and ruthless exploitation. They are an asset by themselves, and already represent the "highest and best use".

Respectfully submitted,

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