

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to H 8152, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar projects. H 8152 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks and sawmills.

H 8152 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts in the state. As we know, logging contributes to and exacerbates climate change. Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates fire hazards, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution.

H7194, the Natural Forest Protection Act, would be beneficial to the long term health of our forests and the population at large, and preserve nature for other uses such as recreation and biodiversity. Pass this bill instead!

Carlos Sotomayor

Newport, RI