

Chairman Marvin Abney
Chair of the RI House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

May 25, 2026

Subject: Please Reject H-8152, Forest Parity Act

Dear Chairman Abney and House Finance Committee,

I am writing to oppose the Forest Parity Act, H 8152, which would allow for an expansion of the timber industry in Rhode Island. By all observations, forest clearing is already happening at a disturbing rate in the state as housing and business developments are expanding. Unfortunately, additional clearing would be made more profitable by removing use and sales tax on logging equipment, vehicles and sawmills.

As a land trust member who places great value on the remaining green space that we are fortunate enough to have left in the state, I believe we certainly do not need legislation to incentivize logging. And unfortunately, this bill would expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

It is time we more closely examine the destructive results of logging. Removing forest cover has many negative environmental effects. We lose the valuable plant and animal biodiversity, the clearing allows for invasive plants to take hold, it then creates a landscape that is dry and brushy full of woody debris which is much more fire prone, and the forest removal releases all the stored carbon which contributes to climate change.

Please do not pass H-8152 which would accelerate logging in Rhode Island. Passage of such an anti-environmental bill would be counter to the conservation efforts that have allowed the state to retain some valuable and desired landscapes.

Sincerely,

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