

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing today 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.

H 8152 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

H 8152 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard. Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

H 8152 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging, creating a more fire prone landscape. (Ie: <https://www.opb.org/article/2020/10/31/logging-wildfire-forest-management/> )

The creation of logging roads alone, creates a host of issues including serving as vectors for the spread of disease by allowing easy access points for potential threats that otherwise would not have been possible in an intact forest (ticks, etc.). Logging roads: disturb native habitats; redistribute rainfall and runoff that impacts aquatic life; degrade and erode the soil; and besides the cost to upkeep, they often require later remediation as well. <https://sierraforestlegacy.org/logging-impacts>

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Best Regards,

Crystal Roberts

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