

May 22, 2026

Testimony In Opposition to H8152 - Forest Parity Act

Date of Hearing: May 26, 2026

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives Finance Committee:

We write to give you this organization's reason for opposing H8152, but first we must state that Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) is a humane organization that has come to the realization that it must address environmental concerns as well as animal concerns because they are inextricably related.

With all due respect to the esteemed sponsors of H8152, we do not believe that forestry operations can rightfully be compared to farming and agricultural operations that are the beneficiaries of tax credits set in law and that the aforementioned forestry operations industry would like to have applied to them.

Although yours is not the House Committee charged with Environment and Natural Resources, you are being asked to give favor to an industry that unlike farming and agriculture does not seek to grow and flourish but to shrink. Approving tax exemption benefits for an industry that makes money by clear cutting and logging gives that industry the financial motivation to strive for work that is above the best interests of our environment.

Our opposition is based on the belief that this legislation would have an adverse impact on our state forests and the wildlife living in them. We ask for your consideration of our concerns and thank you for accepting VSA's testimony via email.

Very respectfully yours,  
Joanne Rongo  
Chair / Writing for the Board of Directors