

May 26, 2026

Subject: **Opposing H 8152, the Forest Parity Act**

Dear Committee Members,

As a Rhode Island citizen, I am writing in strong opposition to H 8152, the Forest Parity Act, a bill that would create a publicly subsidized timber industry in Rhode Island.

This bill, which would make it more profitable to log, including clearcut, forests in the state by removing the use and sales tax on forest product machinery and expanding logging to all zoning districts, is essentially a timber industry expansion bill. The public should not subsidize the timber industry nor support legislation that harms our precious environment.

This is anti-environmental legislation. Logging, especially clearcutting, does not improve the health of our forests. Deforestation accelerates climate change, destroys wildlife habitats, and degrades soil. When trees are removed, they stop absorbing carbon dioxide; when burned or left to rot, they release massive amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Removing these ecosystems accelerates the extinction of vulnerable species. Without these trees, regions can experience severe droughts and altered weather patterns, increasing risk for wildfires.

According to my former Professor of my Harvard Forestry class, Forest Ecology expert Dr. David Foster, it is ecologically better to leave a forest with diseased or dead trees alone to naturally regenerate than to log it, which causes more damage. Loggers are not forestry experts and cannot be left to decide the best protection for our forests.

In 2025, this bill, numbered H 5098, passed into law but was amended after public outcry over. Why is this bill, now H 8152, which resembles the original unamended version of H 5098, being reconsidered? Is the Rhode Island logging industry paying their representatives to push this forward?

I urge the Committee not to pass this anti-environmental bill.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Best wishes,

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