

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to H 8152, the Forest Parity Act. I do not believe that subsidies in the form of public sales and use tax exemptions should be given to the timber industry. This bill would encourage the timber industry to clear cut Rhode Island forests on public lands. Clear cutting is not environmentally friendly, destroys old growth forests that absorb carbon, harms wildlife, and does not prevent wildfires.

I believe in solar "farms," but they can be placed in vacant, unused, paved areas, rather than clearcutting our public forests for the profit of the timber industry.

Please do not vote for H 8152.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia Sylvester

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