

Dear Committee Members, I am writing 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.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Paul Soares,

171 Sayles Hill Rd

North Smithfield, RI

President

North Smithfield Land Trust

Sent from my iPhone

