

Scott R. LaBossiere  
94 Bates Schoolhouse Road  
Exeter, Rhode Island, 02822

May 26, 2026

House Finance Committee  
Chairman Abney

RE: In support of Bill 8152 by AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- FORESTRY AND FOREST  
PARITY ACT

Dear Chairman Abney,

My name is Scott LaBossiere, I am an Exeter resident and constituent of District 39 writing to you regarding House Bill No. 8152 BY Corvese, Serpa, Casimiro, Hull, McEntee, Fellela, Costantino, Edwards entitled, AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- FORESTRY AND FOREST PARITY ACT.

I am an arborist with my own small business in Exeter Rhode Island, and I support Bill 8152, as it will be beneficial to owners and operators of businesses such as mine, related to arboriculture, logging and forestry.

This issue is important to our community because:

1. It would establish sales and use tax exemptions for commercial forest product operations.

2. It would create a new motor vehicle registration for "forestry vehicles" and would provide that all forestry product operations machinery, including motor vehicles with forestry registration plates would be exempt from taxation.
3. It would provide that forest product operations are permitted uses within all zoning districts of a municipality except where prohibited for public health or safety reasons or the protection of wildlife habitat.

Maintaining forests is vital to biodiversity and ecosystem services and it is in the interest of the state, in order to protect economic viability of forests and to provide for their conservation for the future benefit and enjoyment of the people of the state.

I ask that you vote to approve the Forestry and Forest Parity Act. Forest conservation should be given the same status and benefits as farm and open space conservation including protections from taxation.

Thank you for your time, your public service, and your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Scott R. LaBossiere