

April 27, 2026

Chair of the RI Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Subject: Oppose Bill S-2546

Dear Chairman and Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to oppose bill S-2546 which appears to increase DEM's manpower capacity to perform logging on state owned forestry land. Recent activity on state forests has appeared to be primarily that of clearcutting of established woodlands, without concern for the destructive nature of the process in terms of wildlife casualties, major soil disturbance, loss of native forest undergrowth and increased potential for forest fires due to the dryness resulting from loss of canopy. Foresters are increasingly more aware that clearcutting is a destructive process that does not benefit the general health of the woodland and are turning to selective cutting practices to remove certain trees without creating major forest disturbance.

For the health of our preserved woodlands, Rhode Island's state-owned forests should not be subjected to major clearcut logging operations. For that reason, I am opposed to bill S-2546 and do not see a reason to increase manpower for logging operations.

And for improved management of the states valued forest lands, please reinstate the RI Natural Heritage Program which would allow for consideration of habitat and endangered species as part of the forest analysis prior to making any decisions regarding areas for tree removal.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

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