

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

I oppose **S 2546**, relating to agriculture and forestry projects, if it is adding 10 FTE positions to the DEM to support increased clearcutting on public state-owned land. Undisturbed natural forests in Rhode Island host rare ecosystems of native plant and animal diversity. These established forests store more carbon than younger forests and other landscapes. They are more resistant to wildfire, and they prevent flooding.

This bill needs to better define the roles of these additional DEM employees.

Please do not pass **S 2546** , if it is just a deforestation bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Fachon
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