

Chairman Louis P. DiPalma  
Chair of the RI Senate Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

June 1, 2026

**Subject: Please Reject S-3182, Forest Parity Act**

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose the Forest Parity Act, S-3182, which would allow for an expansion of the timber industry in Rhode Island. By all observations, forest clearing is already happening at a disturbing rate in the state as housing and business developments are expanding. Unfortunately, additional clearing would be made more profitable by this bill which would remove use and sales tax on logging equipment, vehicles and sawmills.

As a land trust member who places great value on the remaining green spaces that we are fortunate enough to have left in the state, I believe we certainly do not need legislation to incentivize more logging. And unfortunately, this bill would expand the zoning of where logging is able to take place to all zoning districts.

At a time in which land clearing for development has already claimed significant portions of our woodlands, we must more carefully and fully examine the destructive results of logging and clearcutting on our remaining green spaces. Removing forest cover has many negative environmental effects. We lose the valuable plant and animal biodiversity, the clearing allows for invasive plants to take hold, it then creates a landscape that is dry, brushy and full of woody debris which is much more fire prone, and the forest removal releases all the stored carbon which contributes to increasing climate change.

Please do not pass S-3182 which would accelerate logging in Rhode Island. Passage of such an anti-environmental bill would be counter to the conservation efforts that have helped our state retain some valuable and desired landscapes.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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