

Testimony in opposition to S3182: Forestry and Forest Parity Act

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: June 2, 2026

To Chair DiPalma and the honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I strongly oppose the Forestry and Forest Parity Act, because it would incentivize another extractive industry.

It's shameful enough that we still pay incentives to the fossil fuel industry, while they continue destroying the future of our children and grandchildren.

In the bill, references to protection of wildlife or biodiversity are unspecific. It is not clearly spelled out how wildlife and habitats will be protected. What are the standards for determining the value of ecosystems? It seems the bill will lead to more clearcutting and reward habitat destruction with tax breaks.

It is also unclear if the bill would be applied differently to state, municipal, or private forestland.

I vehemently object to opening all zoning districts to forest product operations as permitted uses¹. If we want our residential trees pruned or cut, there are many tree services available that the residents have been using for the longest time.

We don't want, and we don't need industrial scale "chainsaws, tree chippers, mulch grinders, chip screeners, sawdust blowers, conveyors, power generators, firewood processors, log skidders, wood splitters, disc cleaners, tumblers, shaving mills, loaders, forklifts, firewood kilns, pallet kilns, lumber kilns, sawdust dryers, forwarders, sawmills, resaws, edgers, planers, debarkers, live log decks, green chains, tractors, winches, tree harvesters, feller bunchers, log loaders, slashers, delimiters, grapples, bucket trucks, tree cranes, and stump grinders"² in our neighborhoods—and this is not because of NIMBY'ism, but because it's simply not necessary and because industrial scale operations degrade the quality of life in residential neighborhoods.

Please do not bring this bill to a vote.

Thank you very much for considering my input.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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¹ Page 26 of the bill

² Page 24 of the bill