



VOLUNTEER SERVICES FOR ANIMALS

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Spay/Neuter • Rescue • Education • Advocacy

June 1, 2026

Testimony in Opposition to S3182 -- Forestry and Forest Parity Act – Hearing Date June 2, 2026

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Honorable Members of the Rhode Island Senate Finance Committee:

We write to give you our reasons for opposing S3182, but first we must state that Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) is a humane organization that has come to realize that it must address environmental concerns as well as animal concerns because they are inextricably connected.

We do not believe that forestry operations can be compared to farming and agricultural operations that are the beneficiaries of tax credits set in law and that the aforementioned forestry operations industry would like to have applied to them. Although yours is not the Senate Committee charged with environmental concerns, you are being asked to give favor to an industry that unlike farming does not seek to grow and flourish but to shrink. Approving tax exemptions for an industry that makes money by clear cutting and logging gives that industry financial motivation and increased ability to strive for work above the best interests of our lands and our environment.

Our opposition is also based on the belief that this legislation would have an adverse impact on wildlife displaced by forestry operations that would additionally take down our old trees. We ask for your consideration of our concerns and we thank you for permitting VSA to submit this testimony via email.

Very respectfully yours,
Joanne Rongo
Chair / Writing for the Board of Directors

