

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Shannon Rodrigues <shannonlrodrigues@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 30, 2026 6:00 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Opposition to S 3182

You don't often get email from shannonlrodrigues@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Committee Members, I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

This is not a state full of undeveloped land, this is the only place these plants and animals can continue to exist. We don't need anything built more than our need for forests to remain intact. Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Shannon Rodrigues  
Pawtucket, RI

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Deane Mailloux <deanemailloux@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 30, 2026 6:22 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Opposition to S 3182

You don't often get email from deanemailloux@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Committee Members, I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

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This is not a state full of undeveloped land, this is the only place these plants and animals can continue to exist. We don't need anything built more than our need for forests to remain intact. Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Deane Mailloux  
Pawtucket, RI

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Kathryn Fassnacht <kathrynfassnacht@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2026 3:03 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Act S 3182

You don't often get email from kathrynfassnacht@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members, I am writing in opposition to **S 318** the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

**S 3182** removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

**S 3182** would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

**S 3182 would** also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Kathryn Fassnacht

Warwick, Rhode Island

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** je ha <jenhindc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2026 4:00 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Opposition to S3182

You don't often get email from jenhindc@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S3182, which would extend sweeping tax exemptions and legal protections to commercial forest product operations throughout Rhode Island. While the bill's preamble references biodiversity and ecosystem services, its actual provisions point in the opposite direction — subsidizing the very industries that put our forests most at risk.

S3182 would exempt logging and timber harvesting equipment from sales tax, exempt forestry machinery from local property taxation, and designate commercial forest product operations as permitted uses in every zoning district in the state. Taken together, these incentives make it significantly more financially attractive to clearcut Rhode Island's forests — including for solar development — and remove local communities' ability to weigh in on such operations.

Rhode Island's forests are not simply a timber resource. They are living ecosystems that have developed over generations — habitats for native wildlife, watersheds, carbon sinks, and reservoirs of biodiversity that cannot be restored once lost. Old-growth stands and their understories represent irreplaceable ecological communities. Public subsidies that lower the cost of harvesting them will accelerate their loss.

The bill's wildlife habitat exception in the zoning section is far too narrow to serve as meaningful protection. And nothing in the bill requires forest management plans to protect old growth, maintain habitat corridors, or preserve intact native ecosystems.

Rhode Island's forests belong to all of us — and to the creatures who depend on them, and to future generations who deserve to inherit them intact. I urge the committee to reject S3182 and instead pursue forest policy that centers ecological integrity alongside any economic consideration.

Respectfully,  
Jennifer Haga with assist from Claude AI  
Portsmouth, RI  
[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** ann rossman <annrm@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 30, 2026 8:30 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Forest Parity Act S 3182

You don't often get email from annrm@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act. (Also known as the RI Timber Industry Expansion Bill)

If passed, this bill would work in direct opposition to the Act On Climate legislation passed by the RI Legislature in 2021.

The legislation established enforceable greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. These targets are already under assault by the actions of our current federal government. Cutting down forests would make it even harder to meet those targets as trees absorb greenhouse gases!

S 3182 would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

Why favor the Timber industry with sales tax breaks?

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging, creating a more fire-prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Respectfully,

Ann Rossman

36 Gould St.  
Newport, RI 02840  
50-year Rhode Island resident

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** MARGARET PARSONS <mpkayak@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2026 6:32 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** S 3182 Forest Parity Act

You don't often get email from mpkayak@cox.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

Please protect RI's forests! One need only to visit them to see what a valuable and well used resource they are, as is all open space, for the recreation and enjoyment of Rhode Island citizens.

I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

John and Margaret Parsons  
West Greenwich, RI 02817

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** L T <thuotte57@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2026 4:24 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Bill S 3182

You don't often get email from thuotte57@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members, I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 Removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 Would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Old growth trees seed the forrests. The logging industry wants to cut the old-growth trees because this is where the money is! If any trees are to be cut down in our state forests, they should be secondary growth trees! This clearcutting under the guise of " fighting forrest fires" is a scam!

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/04042025/trump-administration-public-forest-emergency/>

The most destructive fires in modern history—the Camp Fire, Marshall Fire, Lahaina, Talent and Phoenix, Paradise—were not stopped by thinning, fuel breaks, highways, or previously treated forests. They were wind-driven ember storms that ignited homes, then turned neighborhoods into fuel! “This challenges a rule that was used to support a legacy approach that clearly isn’t working.”

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/01/oregon-district-court-logging-rule-clearcutting-thinning-forests-wildfire-mitigation-ce6/>

Thankyou for listening, Leo Thuotte 18 Great Oak Dr Warwick 02886 401 465 1970

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Paul Soares <paulhsoares@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2026 5:21 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** S3182

You don't often get email from paulhsoares@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Paul Soares  
171 Sayles Hill Rd  
North Smithfield RI

Sent from my iPhone

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 11:00 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** opposition to bill S3182 from Barry Schiller

Dear Senate Finance Committee

This is Barry Schiller writing to oppose bill S3182 to give new tax breaks and zoning rights to the logging industry.

Of course every industry would like to be exempt from sales and use taxes, but the state also needs all its revenue for multiple purposes including health care, education, housing and homelessness, transportation, victims rights, and more. There is no real reason to single out the forestry industries for new tax breaks, especially as their activities raise questions about environmental impact. Though Federal land, what there is of it in RI, is not affected by the bill, and on private land the owners have incentives to be prudent, but on state land there are serious issues. Prioritizing logging activities on public land downgrades other uses including recreation, carbon storage, passive enjoyment. Logging inevitably stresses birds and wildlife, already under serious threats and decline. Further, solar "farms" are already replacing woodlands adding to the stress. Let's not accelerate the loss of trees on public lands by giving special tax breaks for cutting down trees.

Thank you for considering my views.

Barry Schiller  
North Providence  
[bschillert358@gmail.com](mailto:bschillert358@gmail.com)

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Susan Loomis <maggiemae50@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 11:56 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Forest Parity Act S3182

You don't often get email from maggiemae50@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing today in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

S 3182 removes habitat for birds, insects, mammals (large and small) who rely on forests and undeveloped land for food and shelter.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

**HAVE EXPERTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FROM URI BEEN ASKED TO DO A COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THIS ACT? IF SO, WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THAT ANALYSIS? IF NOT, WHY NOT?**

**Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.**

Susan and Michael Loomis  
1855 Division Rd.  
E. Greenwich, RI 02818

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** trish sylvester <trishsylvester@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 1:36 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Oppose S 3182 Forest Parity Act

[You don't often get email from trishsylvester@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Finance Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act. I do not believe that subsidies in the form of public sales and use tax exemptions should be given to the timber industry. This bill would encourage the timber industry to clear cut Rhode Island forests on public lands. Clear cutting is not environmentally friendly, destroys old growth forests that absorb carbon, harms wildlife, and does not prevent forest fires.

I believe in solar farms, but they can be placed in vacant, unused, paved areas, rather than clear cutting our valuable public forests for the profit of the timber industry.

Please do not vote for S 3182.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia Sylvester

11 Seabreeze Land, Bristol, R 02809

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Chéri Smith <cheri@tribalcleanenergy.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 1:57 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Written Testimony: Opposition to S3182 – The Forest Parity Act

You don't often get email from cheri@tribalcleanenergy.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

TO:

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma  
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House, Room 21282  
Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Opposition to S3182 – The Forest Parity Act

Dear Senator DiPalma and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to S3182, the Forest Parity Act, a bill that would create a publicly subsidized timber industry in Rhode Island by removing use and sales tax on forest product machinery and expanding logging operations to all zoning districts.

As a Mi'kmaq descendant and an environmental leader who has spent decades working at the intersection of Indigenous sovereignty and land stewardship, I write from a perspective this bill fundamentally disregards: the deep ecological knowledge that Indigenous peoples have held and practiced on this land for millennia.

I also want to note the legislative history before addressing the substance. This committee has already heard from the public on this matter. Last session, S0679, a substantially similar bill, passed into law only after being amended in response to significant public outcry over language that would have created exactly the publicly subsidized timber industry S3182 now seeks to revive. The original concerns have not been resolved. They have simply been reintroduced in different packaging.

Indigenous ecological knowledge, accumulated over thousands of years of direct relationship with the natural world, teaches us that forests are not collections of timber to be harvested. They are living communities of interdependent beings. The trees, soils, fungi, water, and animals of Rhode Island's forests are in relationship with one another in ways that even modern science is only beginning to understand. The mycorrhizal networks that connect tree root systems, which many Indigenous traditions recognize as the communicative and cooperative foundation of the forest, are irreparably destroyed by the bulldozers and skidders that logging operations employ. You cannot clearcut a forest and expect the land to remember what it was.

Even-aged logging, and clearcutting in particular, reflects an extractive, industrial view of land that treats

forests as crops rather than as ecosystems with their own integrity and rights to continuity. The evidence of harm is not abstract. A DEM clearcut at the Hillsdale Preserve in 2018 never regenerated as forest. It is a field now. That is not forest management. That is deforestation. The 2023 Exeter wildfire started in an area that had been clearcut just a few years prior, a direct and local demonstration that logging increases fire risk rather than reducing it.

Proponents of this bill argue that logging diseased or dead trees is ecologically justified. Leading forest ecologists, including Dr. David Foster and Dr. David Orwig of Harvard, disagree. It is ecologically better to allow a forest with diseased or dead trees to naturally regenerate than to log it, which causes further damage. Dead trees do not pose a major long-term fire hazard. Logged areas do. The bill's language purporting to exclude malicious or negligent logging offers little protection in practice. A logger can claim ecological justification for a clearcut while destroying a healthy forest, and that claim is difficult to disprove.

Indigenous land stewardship traditions also teach us about fire ecology and how healthy, intact forests with full canopy cover resist the conditions that lead to catastrophic wildfire. When logging opens the canopy, sunlight dries the forest floor and wind penetrates where it could not before. The flammable slash left behind after a logging operation compounds the hazard. DEM's own practice of conducting prescribed burns in areas it previously logged is an admission that its logging operations create the fire-prone conditions they then seek to remediate. Intact forests do not require this cycle of industrial disruption.

S3182 is also in direct conflict with Rhode Island's 2021 Act on Climate. Logging releases the carbon stored in trees, and most trees logged on state land are converted into short-lived products, woodchips, mulch, firewood, that release that carbon quickly. Trees sent to biomass power plants release it immediately. There is no accounting in this bill for the net carbon loss it would generate, and no reconciliation with the state's own climate commitments.

Rhode Island's public forests belong to all the people of this state, including the Indigenous peoples who are the original stewards of this land. Expanding logging to all zoning districts and subsidizing the timber industry through tax exemptions is not a resource management strategy. It is an irreversible loss, paid for by the public.

I urge this committee to reject S3182 and instead invest in the restoration of the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program, which would protect the biodiversity these forests sustain. That biodiversity has value far beyond what any timber sale could return.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chéri Smith  
Charlestown, Rhode Island

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Carlos Sotomayor <shield229@proton.me>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 2:44 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** My S 3182 Opposition

You don't often get email from shield229@proton.me. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear RI Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the RI Timber Industry Expansion Bill, which would expand the timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar projects. S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks and sawmills.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts in the state. As we know, logging contributes to and exacerbates climate change. Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates fire hazards, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution.

H7194, the Natural Forest Protection Act, would be beneficial to the long term health of our forests and the population at large, and preserve nature for other uses such as recreation and biodiversity. Pass this bill instead!

Carlos Sotomayor

Newport, RI

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Carter Tracy <carter.n.tracy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 3:05 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony Opposing Bill S 3182

You don't often get email from carter.n.tracy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Carter N. Tracy, M.Div., and I am a homeowner and resident of South Kingstown. I am writing in strong opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act.

As someone who values Rhode Island's natural landscapes and believes we have a responsibility to protect them for future generations, I am deeply concerned by legislation that would make logging more profitable through tax exemptions on forestry machinery and by expanding logging operations into all zoning districts.

I have spent years caring for the land around my home, restoring habitat, composting, planting native species, and creating spaces that support pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Through this work, I have developed a deep appreciation for the interconnectedness of healthy ecosystems. Forests are not simply collections of trees. They are living communities that provide clean air, moderate temperatures, store carbon, absorb water, support biodiversity, and contribute to the well-being of both people and wildlife.

Although this bill is presented as supporting forestry, I believe its practical effect would be to encourage increased logging activity in a state where forests are already limited and increasingly fragmented.

Healthy forests provide far more than timber. They store carbon, help regulate temperature, reduce flooding, support biodiversity, improve air quality, and contribute to the physical and emotional well-being of Rhode Islanders. At a time when we are facing increasing climate instability, protecting intact forests should be a priority.

I am particularly concerned about the impacts of clear-cutting and intensive logging practices. Removing large numbers of trees fragments wildlife habitat, disrupts ecological relationships, and alters the forest micro-climate. Opening the canopy allows more sunlight and wind to reach the forest floor, creating drier conditions and increasing vulnerability to invasive species and wildfire.

The 2023 Exeter wildfire reportedly began in an area that had previously been logged and clear-cut. While many factors contribute to wildfire risk, this example should encourage caution before advancing policies that incentivize additional forest disturbance.

The bill contains language intended to prevent malicious or negligent forestry operations. However, in practice, such standards can be difficult to enforce. Logging activities may be justified as habitat improvement, disease management, or fire prevention even when there is significant scientific disagreement regarding their ecological benefits.

Harvard Forest ecologists Dr. David Foster and Dr. David Orwig have noted that forests containing dead or diseased trees are often capable of natural regeneration and that standing dead trees play important ecological roles in nutrient cycling, wildlife habitat, and long-term forest health.

I am also concerned that increased logging would undermine the goals of Rhode Island's 2021 Act on Climate. Mature forests are among our most effective natural carbon sinks. When trees are harvested, much of that stored carbon is ultimately released back into the atmosphere, particularly when the resulting material is used for mulch, wood chips, firewood, or biomass energy production.

Rhode Island's forests are a public resource that provide benefits to all residents. Once mature forests are lost, they cannot be replaced within a human lifetime.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject S 3182 and pursue policies that prioritize forest conservation, climate resilience, biodiversity, and long-term ecological stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carter N. Tracy, M.Div.  
South Kingstown, Rhode Island  
Homeowner, Taxpayer, Gardener, and Concerned Citizen

*"It's not easy being green...."*  
*- Kermit the Frog*

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Carter "Cartier" Tracy, M.Div  
South Kingstown, RI  
401-523-8098



## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Tim Faulkner <tcfaulkner5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 5:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** S 3182 Written Testimony

You don't often get email from tcfaulkner5@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to S3182, the Forest Parity Act.

In light of recent federal action to open public land to paving and off road vehicles, halting timber expansion and saving local forest land is imperative.

Expanding logging in the state with the second highest population density increases pollution and heat. It destroys biodiversity and bird habitat, and creates tick habitat.

The bill increases logging in open space across all districts in Rhode Island.

It also makes it more profitable to clearcut forests on public and private land, including for solar farms.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush that creates a more fire-prone landscape.

Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,  
Tim Faulkner

Barrington

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** DIANNA ODELL <domw84@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 10:06 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Oppose S 3182, the Forest Parity Act

You don't often get email from domw84@cox.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Thank you,

Dianna Odell

Portsmouth, RI

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## Jamie Plume

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**From:** shannon stad <shannon.stad@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 9:37 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act

You don't often get email from shannon.stad@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

My Name is Shannon Stad and I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc. S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Shannon Stad  
277 Woodland Rd  
Woonsocket, RI 02895

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Ron Seiden <rseiden85@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 9:38 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** S 3182 Opposition

You don't often get email from rseiden85@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Ron Seiden  
East Providence

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** EPUF <epurbanforest@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 10:03 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Cc:** Sen. Lawson, Valarie J  
**Subject:** S3182 written testimony

You don't often get email from epurbanforest@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Senators,

As a member of EP Urban Forest, a citywide, all-volunteer group to preserve tree canopy in East Providence, I am disturbed that we are called here -- once again -- to talk about S3182, a measure we all rallied against last year.

Last year, pretty much the same bill was nearly passed under the radar until the public was informed, and rallied on the final night of the session. That lack of transparency was a disservice to your constituents and the democratic process. It was also a disservice to you, since it was clear that many did not understand the full implications of this measure.

So why are we here again -- the public had already made it clear that our state forests are not farms, that they are habitats and the last oases for both wildlife and the public. My father grew up going to Arcadia -- which is now defaced with clearcuts. He took me there as a kid, and later I took my son. I hope he takes his children. Will this be the year that the RI Assembly takes our state forests away from future generations and gives it to the timber lobby?

Let us be clear: The timber lobby can keep coming back, but once those forests are clear cut, they are gone. If they are not protected now, they disappear -- under your watch -- and the photos of clearcut forests in our state lands will be your campaign photos.

**We will ensure that the horrific photos of clear-cut forests in our state parks have your name under them.**

This is an important issue to Rhode Islanders -- who already made it clear that we want permanent protection of our state forests. This is not a political game to be re-played every year. Once the trees are cut, they are gone.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tierney  
EP Urban Forest  
East Providence

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Stefan <stefan.dipippo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 10:27 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** OPPOSE the Forest Parity Act bill S 3182

You don't often get email from stefan.dipippo@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning-

I am writing this email to express my opposition to bill S 3182. The premise that "forests are more likely to be maintained if they provide economic value," is very short sighted. It is on those grounds alone that I oppose this bill. For me - a lifetime Rhode Islander - I would appreciate it if elected officials focused on conservation, and didn't undertake the many risks involved in logging all for the sake of financial gain. I'm most proud of Rhode Island's tradition & history of going against the fray, and always having a strongly rooted moral compass that was never in competition to our neighbors. Let's follow the role of the nations that meet or exceed carbon neutral goals by preserving our forests, which are our best line of defense against our own inability to modify our ways of life that take an inordinate toll on our planet.

Thank you for your time.

Take care-

Stefan DiPippo

02860

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Jacquelyn Kanis <bloomingwork@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 11:05 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** S 3182 Forest Parity Act

You don't often get email from bloomingwork@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my desire for this committee to reject the Forest Parity Act, S 3182. This act would publicly subsidize the timber industry by removing the use and sales tax on machinery and expand logging to all zoning districts.

This would be at the expense of the health of the forests, by disturbing and disrupting the biodiversity within them.

It would create fire hazards from the wood debris remaining on the forest floor. The resulting open canopy would allow for drought conditions by virtue of increased sunlight and drying winds. These same conditions would further upset the native biodiversity by allowing the increase in invasive species which thrive on disturbed areas, increased sunlight and wind dispersed seeds.

Logging is also a very real factor in climate warming through carbon released into the atmosphere. Trees are the major source of carbon sink, carbon contained within their root systems. Forests are naturally self-perpetuating, diseased and dead matter are consumed by invertebrates, bacteria and fungi to the benefit of soil health and the germination of new trees.

This natural process supports the 2021 Act on Climate while the carbon released through wood products would do the opposite.

I strongly urge you to reject this bill as it would have a negative effect of allowing more heat-producing carbon into the atmosphere, creating unhealthy and drying conditions within the forests which, with the debris byproduct and increased wind corridors increase the potential for wild fires.

This is not a people, planet friendly bill but a detriment to both.

Respectfully,  
JacquelynKanis

(former RI Certified Horticulturist and RI Certified Tree Steward)

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Provost, Kara <kprovost0907@curry.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 11:24 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Oppose S 3182, the Forest Parity Act

You don't often get email from kprovost0907@curry.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members:

As a RI voter, I am writing to respectfully request that you oppose S 3182, the Forest Parity Act because of its negative impact on the environment and Rhode Island economy. This bill would expand the Timber industry in the state by opening up zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts and making it more profitable to lumber industries to clearcut forests on public and private land, including on solar farms. At the same time, this bill would reduce revenues to the state by ending sales tax on forest product equipment like chainsaws, logging trucks, etc.

Clear cutting and other indiscriminate forms of logging damage the environment by reducing biodiversity, spreading invasive species, and increasing habitat, for disease-carrying ticks. This kind of logging also releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution, contributing to the risk of wildfires, and adding to the negative impacts of climate change.

Please do not pass this bill that would sacrifice the wellbeing of many Rhode Islanders and beyond in order to enrich a single industry.

Thank you,

Kara Provost  
280 Hillside Ave.  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Katie Hyams <kdwhyams79@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 11:31 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Forest Parity Act

You don't often get email from kdwhyams79@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members, I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Kathryn Hyams

Barrington, RI

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Julia McGuigan <juliajmcg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 11:53 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony Opposing the Forest Parity Act bill, S 3182

You don't often get email from juliajmcg@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members, I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment, including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by increasing logging and creating a more fire-prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Julia McGuigan

Cranston Rhode Island 02910

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Leslie Leister <lmleister2015@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 12:09 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** S3182 Timber Industry Expansion Act

You don't often get email from lmleister2015@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I write you in continued opposition to this, and similar legislation proposed in the past, that would create a publicly subsidized timber industry we don't need, and would make it more profitable to clearcut forests. Clearcutting is common. Typically, other predictable, associated consequences and public costs are ignored. How would this legislation be monitored and, in particular, enforced?

Natural forests are neither tree farms nor agricultural crops. They are shaped by nature and, like many things, don't need human degradation in the name of "management".

The "highest and best use" of natural forest is to remain as it is. Future viability of the logging industry is secondary, and irrelevant, to the value of having forest. Ironically, once no trees will be left to clearcut, the Industry will have put itself out of business.

Instead, I ask that you fund DEM to bring back the RI Natural Heritage Program to identify, monitor, and protect biodiversity in the State. With climate change, ecological diversity is at risk. Public lands in public hands.

(Mr.) Leslie M. Leister  
161 Glen Ridge Road  
Cranston, RI 02920

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Heather Johnson <heather\_johnson@uri.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 12:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** S3182

You don't often get email from heather\_johnson@uri.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members, I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard.

Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging creating a more fire prone landscape.

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Heather Johnson  
(Cranston)

Heather Johnson, PhD  
Dept of English and Creative Writing  
Dept of Professional and Public Writing  
Senior Honors Projects Advisor, Honors Program  
University of Rhode Island  
401.219.3600  
[zoom link](#)

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Nick Deubert <ndeubert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 6:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** No to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act

You don't often get email from ndeubert@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee members, my name is Nicholas Deubert and I am a member of the Rhode Island Old Growth Tree Society, an environmental non-profit devoted to protecting forests and biodiversity. I am writing in strong opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, a bill that would create a publicly subsidized timber industry in Rhode Island. This bill, which would make it more profitable to log, including clearcut, forests in the state by removing the use and sales tax on forest product machinery and expanding logging to all zoning districts, is no more than a timber industry expansion bill. Last year, this bill, numbered S 0679 in 2025, passed into law but was amended after much public outcry over the language that would have created a publicly subsidized timber industry. S0679aa.pdf Why is this bill, now S 3182, which resembles the original unamended version of S 0679, being reconsidered? While this legislation claims to be environmental, there is nothing environmental about it. Logging, especially clearcutting, does not make a forest healthy. It destroys biodiversity, killing many of the animals that live there. It creates a fire hazard through the flammable wood slash left behind after the logging operation. The opened up forest canopy allows more sunlight to reach the forest floor making the forest floor dry, and allows more wind to blow through the forest due to the wider holes in the canopy from the cut trees, increasing the risk of fire in the logged areas. Logging also contributes to Climate Change through the carbon released from the logged trees. The 2023 Exeter wildfire started in an area that was clearcut logged a few years prior. If this legislation is passed, it would increase the risk of fire for residents living near logged forests. While the bill states it wouldn't apply to forestry operations conducted in a malicious or negligent manner, or that violates state or federal law, that is difficult to prove. A logger could claim they are clearcutting a forest to improve habitat while they are in fact destroying it. They could claim the trees in the forest are all diseased or dead and then clearcut the forest, even though scientists disagree. According to leading experts in Forest Ecology, Dr. David Foster and Dr. David Orwig of Harvard, it is ecologically better to leave a forest with diseased or dead trees alone to naturally regenerate than to log it, which would cause more damage. Loggers could claim they are clearcutting a forest for fire prevention, despite the fact logging itself makes a wildfire more likely than leaving the forest alone, even if it has dead trees, as Harvard Ecologists found the dead trees don't pose a major fire hazard in the long run. Regarding state and federal law, forest clearcutting and most forms of destructive logging are currently legal and actively practiced by tree and logging companies contracted by the state.

This bill also would be in conflict with the 2021 Act on Climate through the carbon emissions that would be released which result in net carbon loss. Very little carbon of the original tree is contained in wood products, and that carbon is eventually released, especially in short lived products like woodchips, mulch, and firewood that most of the logged trees on state-owned land are turned into. Logged trees sent to biomass Power Plants, including trees from state land, release carbon immediately. I ask the Committee to not pass this anti-environmental bill. Sincerely, Nicholas Deubert Cumberland, RI 02886

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Gretchen Sotomayor <ramblerg5303@pm.me>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 1:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Opposed to S 3182

You don't often get email from ramblerg5303@pm.me. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act. I am opposed to tax subsidies for the timber industry, as supported in this bill by removing the use and sales tax on logging equipment, and to the expansion of logging to all zoning districts in Rhode Island.

Instead of zone expansion and tax subsidies for the timber industry, please consider the research and science behind best practices in forest management and propose more rigorous legislation to encourage science-based, sustainable practices of managing forested lands in Rhode Island.

As others have stated in earlier testimonies on last year's legislation, our forests do not fall into the same category as agriculture.

Expansive reporting by news organization EcoRI, in Sept., 2025, highlighted testimony on similar legislation introduced last fall:

*The Old Growth Tree Society and 11 other entities, including the the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association, and two land trusts, filed a joint objection, writing that the legislation attempts to compare agriculture to forestry.*

*"[O]ur native forests are not crops on a farm. They are not tree plantations. Logging Natural Forests is not farming," they wrote.*

*The letter noted the signees are not "opposed to logging taking place in areas that are not old growth forests, natural heritage areas, or other rare forest habitats." They also noted "taxpayers shouldn't have to pay more taxes so the timber industry pays less in taxes."*

Destructive logging, such as clearcutting methods, destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, and releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution. It also leaves our communities more prone to fire. We are all experiencing the effects of a changing climate, and careful management of this precious resource in Rhode Island will provide benefits to all.

Gretchen Sotomayor  
Newport, RI 02840

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Naomi Kramer <nrkramer15@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 1:59 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** RE: Forest Parity Act S 3182: AGAINST

You don't often get email from nrkramer15@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please VOTE AGAINST S3182. Climate change is already impacting our state with heavier storms and flooding. I am a concerned RI voter.

Trees are an essential part of fighting climate change. Increasing logging would be deleterious to our RI state. We need to increase tree planting and defend our state against climate change. Increased logging will be bad for the health and well-being of our state. Don't bend to pressure from logging companies. They are not interested in the health of our state. The increased logging will damage the environment and is not good for the lungs and health of our citizens.

Vote AGAINST S3182 to protect RI. We need trees for our environment and our people's health.

Thank you,  
Naomi R. Kramer  
Providence, RI

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** johnophean@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 2:36 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Opposition of Forest Parity Act S 3182

You don't often get email from johnophean@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing today in opposition to S 3182, the Forest Parity Act, which would expand the Timber industry in the state by making it more profitable to clearcut forests on both public and private land, including for solar.

S 3182 removes the use and sales tax on forest product equipment including chainsaws, logging trucks, sawmills, etc.

S 3182 would also expand the zoning of where logging can take place to all zoning districts.

Destructive logging destroys biodiversity, spreads invasive species, creates tick habitat, releases most of the carbon stored in a forest into the atmosphere as air pollution contributing to Climate Change, and creates a fire hazard. Logging destroys cool, damp forests and replaces it with dry forests filled with invasive underbrush and flammable wood slash on the forest floor.

S 3182 would also endanger people's lives by the increased logging, creating a more fire prone landscape. (le: <https://www.opb.org/article/2020/10/31/logging-wildfire-forest-management/> )

The creation of logging roads alone, creates a host of issues including serving as vectors for the spread of disease by allowing easy access points for potential threats that otherwise would not have been possible in an intact forest (ticks, etc.). Logging roads: disturb native habitats; redistribute rainfall and runoff that impacts aquatic life; degrade and erode the soil; and besides the cost to upkeep, they often require later remediation as well. <https://sierraforestlegacy.org/logging-impacts>

Please do not pass this un-environmental bill.

Best Regards,

Crystal Roberts  
Warwick, RI 02886

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Joanne Costanza <peacepd@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 3:31 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Opposition to S-3182

You don't often get email from peacepd@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I write in opposition to Senate Bill S-3182.

1. Tax subsidies should not be given be given to the Timber Industry. They do not merit special consideration or protection.
2. Logging and clearcutting should not be expanded.

Those things may benefit hunters and thereby DEM (because hunting is a direct source of DEM funding.), but it is in direct opposition to the health of our forests, including our old growth forests, to fire safety, and our environment as a whole.

Please vote no on S-3182

Joanne Costanza  
259 North Rd  
Wakefield, RI  
02879  
peacepd@aol.com  
401-741-7553