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Senate Finance Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Chairman Dipalma,

The American Loggers Council represents the logging industry in 45 states, including Rhode Island. I would like to commend the Rhode Island Senate for their support of the Forest Parity Act. Other states have taken similar action to preserve forests, support forest landowners, and extend tax benefits to the forest contractors that provide the forest management resources necessary to maintain healthy multi-use forests.

Forestry is agriculture. As the father of forestry and first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service said, "Forestry is tree farming. Forestry is handling trees so that one crop follows another. To grow trees as a crop is forestry."

The U.S. timber industry has experienced many challenges. The American Loggers Council has prepared a Road Map to Recovery for Congress and the Administration outlining actions that can assist in ***maintaining*** U.S. forests, ***retaining*** forests as forest instead of conversion to other uses, and ***sustaining*** the critical logging and forest products infrastructure. Rhode Island's support of these goals and objectives through the Forest Parity Act will ensure that Rhode Island's forests remain forests for public benefit and use.

The American Loggers Council strongly endorses the Forest Parity Act and encourages the Rhode Island Senate to pass this legislation.

Respectfully,  
*Scott Dane*  
Scott Dane  
Executive Director  
American Loggers Council