

Hello Representative Bennett,

I am in strong support of 2024 – H7293 ) A N A C T RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- OLD GROWTH FOREST PROTECTION ACT).

As a junior at Barrington High School and a student AP Environmental Science, I am deeply invested in the preservation of our forests for the benefit of our ecosystems and future generations. Therefore, I am in full support of H7293, which seeks to protect Rhode Island's old growth forests.

Old growth forests are not merely patches of trees; they are ecosystems filled with life, providing necessary services for both humans and wildlife. Old growth forests are vital to biodiversity. These forests are indispensable for many species, offering habitats and resources for their survival. Unfortunately, these ecosystems have faced devastation due to clear-cutting. By protecting what remains, we can protect these necessary ecosystems.

In addition, old growth forests are essential in combating climate change through the sequestration of carbon dioxide. Without these forests, the rate of global warming will accelerate, leading to more frequent and severe weather events that will greatly affect the futures of young people like myself.

Furthermore, it is essential to acknowledge that old growth forests belong to everyone, including the future generations and wildlife. Allowing the destruction of these forests for short-term gain is not only irresponsible but also a disservice to the youth and will be detrimental to the wildlife.

In conclusion, I urge the passage of H7293 so that Rhode Island's old growth forests are protected. As young people, we are counting on you to act in our best interests. Thank you.

Regards,  
Emma Pautz  
Barrington, RI