

**Testimony in support of House Bill 7618: The Forestry and Forest Parity Act
by Peter Trafton, Providence Rhode Island, speaking for myself.**

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I write with strong support of the Forest Parity Act, H7618, which renders to smaller sustainable forestry practices the same tax treatments which we provide to farmers and fishermen, something that has been lacking for Rhode Island's diminished logging practitioners and their businesses.

Rhodes Island's forests are in trouble, as pointed out in today's ProJo. Our forests need better care, care that cannot be provided with limited untrained and inexperienced personnel and sparse resources.

We need to support and maintain our forests, which are sorely threatened by climate change and associated problems. Heat, flooding, droughts, high winds and various damaging insects are all increasing. The DEM is working to improve forest protection.

We should help them. Providing local foresters with the same support that we give farmers and fisherman will certainly help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PG Trafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Peter Trafton