

## Lou Mansolillo

---

**From:** Crystal Roberts <crystalrcares@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 2:34 AM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition to bill H 7728

Dear Committee members,

I am writing in opposition to bill H 7728, the Comprehensive Fire Safety Act, which could endanger private landowners living near forests, rather than making them safe.

This bill would mandate all private landowners who own 500 or more acres of land in the state, including conservation organizations, to create a forest management plan for the alleged "purpose of fire mitigation to be approved by DEM."

The vague language in H 7728 opens this bill up to any dangerous forestry practice currently being used for fire mitigation in Rhode Island.

Since DEM's fire mitigation plans almost always include logging and prescribed burning, if this bill is passed, it could force all private landowners who own 500 or more acres of land, to log and burn their forests. This actually creates its own fire hazard, since logging contributes to wildfires due to the flammable wood slash left behind, and the underbrush that grows soon after the logging operation due to the removal of the tree canopy (not to mention the plethora of other negative effects on entire ecosystems that logging produces). The drier forest conditions from the tree canopy removal also exposes the area to wind.

Prescribed burning can get out of control leading to a massive wildfire.

We cannot afford mistakes in today's decision-making that will leave us doing damage-control in the future. Please oppose bill H 7728, which could force private landowners to use bad forest management practices for fire mitigation on their land, creating a dangerous fire hazard in the process.

Your time & consideration to these important matters is greatly appreciated.

With Best Regards,

Crystal Roberts  
725 East Ave  
Warwick, RI  
02886