

Lou Mansolillo

From: Diana Kushner <djkushner4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 12:33 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: H5098 (Forest Parity Act) - In Opposition

To the members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing in opposition to H5098 (Forest Parity Act).

Because of the impact logging has on climate, I suggest that before passing legislation that promotes forestry in the state, Rhode Island comes up with a policy that will consider the impact logging projects have on global climate. If we, as a state, are to meet our goal of net zero emissions, considering the benefits that forests play will be essential. Currently, the scientific consensus is clear (hundreds of references available; a few below) - older trees and forests sequester far more carbon than disturbed forests. Planting trees, although essential, won't help reduce CO2 levels in the atmosphere for many decades to come.

I ask you to hold this bill for another year, so that when it does pass, we will have laws on the books that would be able to come into play to help guide RI forestry policy in a way that is in alignment with climate goals.

Finally, the idea that forestry close to the metropolitan areas of the state would add to "city dwellers happiness" is ludicrous. City dwellers love to escape the city to be in nature. I have seen the reaction of hundreds of city dwellers to recent logging operations on state lands, and, without exception, people are horrified to see what is being done, even more so when they understand that consideration of RI's climate goals is not mandated by state law on major forestry operations.

Sincerely,
Diana Kushner
94 Blitzkrieg Trail
Hope Valley RI

Interview with Bill Moomaw, IPCC climate scientist, Woodwell Climate Research Center, MA:
<https://e360.yale.edu/features/why-keeping-mature-forests-intact-is-key-to-the-climate-fight>

[Intact Forests in the United States: Proforestation Mitigates Climate Change and Serves the Greatest Good](#)

[Net carbon sequestration implications of intensified timber harvest in Northeastern U.S. forests](#)