

Testimony in opposition to H5098: Forestry and Forest Parity Act

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Date of Hearing: February 6, 2025

To Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I completely oppose the Forestry and Forest Parity Act, as it incentivizes another extractive industry. We already support and pay incentives to the fossil fuel industry, and the effects of fossil fuels are rapidly destroying our state and world. Clear-cutting forests should not be allowable anywhere in RI, for any reason. It must never happen again. Remember solar panel citing? What a disaster to our natural world. NO clear cutting anywhere. We all need more trees, not less.

Businesses with 300 employees are not small family businesses. I object to opening all zoning districts to forest product operations as permitted uses. If we want our residential trees pruned or cut, there are many tree services available that the residents have been using for the longest time. This bill will put small business out of business.

We don't want industrial scale forestry machines in our neighborhoods, towns or cities. Please do not bring this bill to a vote.

Thank you very much for considering my feedback.