

Lou Mansolillo

From: Jennifer Brown <jen.script@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 2:55 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: 2025 -- H 5098

I, Jennifer Brown, with a bachelor of science is in forestry, testify against 2025 -- H 5098 because there are very limited forests in Rhode Island, and they are under continual disturbance, degradation, and reduction. Considering development pressure, pandering, and acquiescence, as well as carelessly composed climate mandates that failed to protect many forests across the state from being clearcut for solar arrays, Rhode Island's mission for healthy forests must be conservation for scarce forests and wooded areas. Forestry can be silviculture, or educated sustainable logging. However, Rhode Island has not been protecting its forests. Even on forest conservation land, aerial maps show that a farm was allowed to cut a large swath out of contiguous forest at Snake Den Park. Forestry does not mean tree removal, and that is how H 5098 will be interpreted. The most important parts of silviculture are planning and careful execution, hopefully conducted by those who've studied ecology or forestry and are qualified, but this will be a green light for any tree removal for any reason as though it is in the interest of forests. H 5098 cannot allow tree removal in all zones under the guise of forestry, but only removing trees for no benefit to forests. We need healthy trees and preserved land for forests to attain their own balance for clean air and water and sound buffering, as well as critical biodiversity our food web and dwindling resources depends on.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Brown
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