

RHODE ISLAND WOOD OPERATORS' ORGANIZATION INC.

753 Nooseneck Hill Road
West Greenwich, RI 02817
401-640-5919
Trees2@cox.net

February 1, 2025

Honorable David Bennett, Chairman
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
RI State House
Providence, RI 02908

Re: H-5098 Forest Parity Act

Dear Mr. Bennett and the Committee,

The RIWOO is a statewide nonprofit volunteer organization representing many RI forest product industry businesses. Our mission is to promote and protect the occupations involving urban trees, forests, and our sustainable, renewable forest products of RI. Through proper forest management we farm the forest to keep it healthy and sustainable.

Our organization consists of many board members of multiple forest-oriented organizations including:

- RI Forest Conservation Commission
- RI Woodland Partnership
- RI Forest Conservator's Organization
- RI Farm Bureau
- American Logger's Council

We Are all Conservation and Forest management minded!

Our organization supports the passage of The Forest Parity Act, H-5098, which will help and assure that existing forest related businesses will remain operating and provide jobs in rural areas and help minimize the conversion of our forests to other uses.

The Forest Parity Act was passed in the House in 2023 and 2024. We ask for your support in the passage of H-5098 in 2025.

Respectfully,



Robert A. Verrier
President