

Dear Committee members, I am writing in opposition to H 5607.

This legislation attempts to equate agriculture to "forestry", meaning logging.

However, our native forests are not crops on a farm. They are not tree plantations.

Forests are shaped by nature, self-perpetuating, and able to thrive without human interference.

Logging Natural Forests is not farming!

If the intention of this legislation was to have forestry apply just to planted tree farms, it should specify that in the bill.

Otherwise, the forestry that would be part of the definition for agricultural operations in Rhode Island General Laws could include destructive logging techniques such as clearcutting, which destroys biodiversity, allows invasive species to thrive, pollutes waterways, damages soil, increases the risk of wildfire, and contributes to Climate Change through the carbon released from the trees when they are logged.

The unused material from this logging could be burned in biomass power plants which emit greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, which affect the health of nearby residents and contributes to Climate Change.

Therefore, I am opposed to H 5607.

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