

H 5607 – OPPOSE

Hearing Date March 20, 2025

TO: RHODE ISLAND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE

From: Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA)

Dear Chairman Bennett and Honorable Representatives of the House Environment & Resource
Committee:

Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) writes to advise you that it opposes H 5607 for the following
two reasons:

simply said, we feel that this proposed legislation will harm our forests by allowing tree harvesting
entrepreneurs to cut down trees for the value of their wood without due consideration for the harm done
to our environment and for loss of habitat for our State's wildlife;

the second and very jarring reason for VSA's opposition is that in Lines 14 and 15 of the new language
are the following words “including for the *production* of fibre, *furbearing animals*,”...

We interpret this to mean that there can be fur farms like puppy mills that exist outside of the law in our
State except that because of H 5607 fur farms would be within the law.

Keeping furbearing animals in cages and killing them for their skins is an act that VSA opposes with all
of its might and we respectfully request that you not let this happen in our State.

Thank you for permitting VSA to submit this testimony via email.

Very respectfully yours,

Joanne J. Rongo

Chair of the VSA Board of Directors