



A People's Forest Bill of Rights:

H.1003, An Act to Ensure Accountability and Public Rights Regarding Commercial Tree Harvesting on Commonwealth-owned Lands

Premise and Intent: Commonwealth-owned lands are the people's lands and their treatment is critical to the public welfare, especially now, in the midst of the tandem crises affecting our climate and biodiversity. H.1003 would give us a substantial voice and real influence concerning public land-use decisions. It would also hold agencies responsible for complying with existing laws.

Why H.1003?

Civic Participation. Presently, opportunities for public input regarding commercial logging projects on public lands are limited to the submission of comments during the early planning stages only. These typically carry little if any weight with agencies. H.1003 requires that agencies substantively respond to concerns raised by the people.

Transparency. Information is key to democratic participation. H.1003 prescribes specific requirements for agencies to keep the public informed throughout their planning processes.

Agency Accountability. State agencies are denying their responsibility to meet the demands of existing laws such as the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act. H.1003 would require any entity planning commercial logging on public lands to comply with the requirements to analyze and disclose projected environmental and climate impacts. H.1003 explicitly recognizes the fact that logging is a significant source of carbon emissions and requires accounting of such to be compared to the alternative approach of Proforestation (no logging).

Administrative Rights. H.1003 gives the public the right to appeal public land-use decisions and provides a presently lacking mechanism for this process.

Legal Standing. H.1003 ensures that the people have legal standing in court, to challenge agency decisions regarding commercial logging on public lands.

Protecting our Lands from Commercial Exploitation for Private Profit. Commercial logging on Commonwealth lands loses millions of our tax dollars every year. H.1003 gives the people a choice between losing our trees and our money or preserving the biodiversity and carbon sequestration which only our forests provide.

Read the bill at: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1003>

Sign this petition: https://actionnetwork.org/letters/support-ma-house-bill-h1003-to-protect-our-forests?source=direct_link&

Watch our updated video presentation at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7k1MpZtq_DM&ab_channel=WSFAVideos