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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Although I'm not from Vermont, I am going to college in Burlington, and I absolutely love the beautiful forests that surround the city. I feel as though I've barely gotten to explore the vast acreage of public parks and foot trails that this state has to offer, but I already feel that I, like most Vermonters, have a responsibility to protect and treasure it. The new proposal to cut down nearly 12,000 acres of forest that is both beautiful and highly productive is very alarming to me. A large part of the area proposed for logging is defined as mature or old growth, and logging of any old growth forests would be violating Executive Order 14072, signed by Joe Biden. Old growth forests are very efficient when it comes to sequestering carbon from the atmosphere, and they are also the preferred habitats of the Northern Long-eared Bat, which is currently listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife service. In a state like Vermont, where logging practices by early European settlers caused massive amounts of damage to ecosystems that still haven't recovered, it's paramount that we protect what few mature and old growth forests we still have. To go against all the science that shows the importance of protecting our most productive forests and ecosystems for timber production would be a slap in the face to the conservation movement, and to the entire population of Vermont. I implore you to do what is best for the people of Vermont, and strike down this proposal.