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Comments: I oppose this clear cutting of 11,000 acres of forest in my home state, Vermont.

Vermont is currently working on H.126 that would mandate conservation goals for Vermont in alignment with federal and global "30 by 30" initiatives: to conserve 30% of Vermont by 2030, and 50% by 2050. This includes private, municipal, state, and federal land.

I agree with Vermont activist Stephen Leslie who testified to the legislature recently:

"Beginning in 2010, and for the first time in over one-hundred years, Vermont is again losing forest to the tune of 1150 acres a year. Unchecked development, clear cutting and fragmentation all threaten the health and connectivity of woodlands.

50% of the carbon stored in a forest is held by the top 1% of the biggest trees. New findings show that, young trees are net emitters of carbon until they reach about twenty years and that although it is not as rapid as in young trees, sequestration is greatest from the growth period of 50 years to 150 years of age and is continuous after that. In terms of immediate impact in the midst of the climate crisis & loss of biodiversity, the most consequential action we can take in the northeast is to protect our mature forests. [...] Vermont already has 24% of its land protected under three tiers of conservation. We can easily meet the 30 x30 goal by permanently protecting all forests on public land." The point is- we need to conserve state and national forests which comprise about 10% of all VT woodlands NOW!