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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a Vermont resident who lived for many years on the edge of the Green Mountain National Forest. This forest offers people and animals rare and important refuge from development and industrialized life. Vermont as a whole boasts one of the largest contiguous forested corridors for wildlife to move freely, following ancient migration patterns and the need to move territory to find adequate food supplies.

Please do not open the Telephone Gap up to logging. These 12,000 acres are home to old growth trees that are vital to balancing the effects of climate change, as well as native plant species that are under threat across the state from increased home development. This forest also provides habitat for the northern long-eared bat, which the US Fish & Wildlife service listed as endangered in November 2022. Bats are vital to our forested ecosystems and helping control increasing mosquito populations.

I am a landowner with over 100 acres in the state's current use program. My land has been logged in increments over the past few decades, and I can tell you, despite whatever care is taken in logging, native species suffer. Multiflora rose, buckthorn & japanese barberry are beginning to flourish in the understory, pushing out economically valuable plants like witch hazel. Buckthorn offers little food source for any of the wild animals other than deer, which are creating issues on my farm due to nearby logging operations and their own continual loss of habitat.

Logging such a large amount of acreage has ripple effects across our community. It pushes animals to nearby developments creating conflict with human populations. It decreases the draw of tourism.

Please do not open Telephone gap to logging operations.