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Comments: Dear Sirs,

I am writing today to express my firm opposition to the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project. The project is ill-conceived, based on outdated notions, and entirely unnecessary.

Logging mature forests at this time of global climate emergency and mass extinction is highly problematic to say the least. It is large contiguous areas of older forest such as those targeted by this project that most need our protection. The most pressing need for biodiversity protection in New England is the preservation of just such forests and the myriad of species that depend on them, including the federally endangered Long-eared Bat. Moreover, it is such older forests that are most critical for carbon sequestration and many other benefits mature forests provide, including flood mitigation, water filtration, local climate moderation, tourism and outdoor recreation, as well as more intangible but absolutely essential wellsprings of spiritual replenishment.

The idea that logging is actually good for the forest and a sensible buffer against wildfire has been repeatedly disproved and should have no place in current forestry practice.