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Comments: The devastation of the natural world in my lifetime has been astonishing, heartbreaking, and terrifying. I am keenly aware of the loss of wild spaces and how that has contributed to mass extinctions. As a species, we find ourselves staring down the barrel of cascading species losses as we continue to consume this planet's resources, as if they are boundless. The solutions are relatively simple. One of them is in your hands. Less than one-tenth of one percent of our forests in New England are old-growth, and most of this is on state and federal public lands. I urge you to heed the call of biologists like the late Edward O. Wilson, and strictly prohibit ALL cutting and logging on mature and old growth forests. Please allow our public forests to continue to grow old, absorbing increasing amounts of carbon in the trees, soils, and fungi. Allow them to continue protecting our drinking water and saving us from catastrophic floods. Allow them to be home to a diversity of species that support the web of life. Maintaining "working forests" for the benefit of the chosen species that we hunt, such as deer and game birds, will do nothing to maintain the diversity of species upon which all of life depends. The "half-earth" that Wilson concluded we must preserve to stabilize species loss and support our own survival depends upon preservation of intact, contiguous wild spaces, which are vanishingly rare. You, stewards of our remaining wild spaces, hold the key. What a remarkable opportunity you have before you. We are all counting on you.