

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/15/2025 6:30:16 PM

First name: Carole

Last name: Cummings

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an 80-year-old Vermonter who has lived here my entire life, I've seen firsthand how much our forests mean to our communities and our way of life. The Telephone Gap Forest is more than just trees-it's a living, breathing part of Vermont's natural beauty and resilience. It has provided clean water, shelter for wildlife, and peace for those of us lucky enough to walk beneath its canopy.

I am deeply concerned about the proposal to cut it down. At my age, I've seen changes in our climate that are alarming, and I worry about what we are leaving for future generations. Forests like this play a critical role in protecting us from the worst impacts of climate change by storing carbon, supporting biodiversity, and regulating our water systems. Destroying this forest would be a terrible step backward, one we simply cannot afford to take.

We need to protect places like the Telephone Gap Forest, not just for what they give us today, but for the hope they offer for tomorrow. I urge our leaders to think carefully and choose conservation over destruction. Let's leave a legacy of care and stewardship for the land that has sustained us for generations.