

Resolution in support of H. 912 An Act Relative to Forest Protection and H. 1002 An Act to Increase Protection of Wildlife Management Areas

Resident Sponsors: Eleanor Rasche and Macey Pariseau
Council Sponsor: Patricia De Angelis

Whereas, forests are a vital part of Massachusetts, providing us with cleaner air, filtering our water, preventing erosion, and contributing to the character of our Commonwealth; and

Whereas, we are running out of time before the consequences of climate change become irreversible; and

Whereas, these Acts support pro-forestation, an idea which considers the future by not only planting trees but, more importantly protecting our forests, particularly those on public lands, so they can grow old; and

Whereas, there are many endangered, threatened, or species that have earned special concern status in Massachusetts like the Blue-Spotted Salamander, and the Little Brown Bat which will be impacted if forests are cut down, ordinary plants, animals, and insects, will be destroyed as well; and

Whereas, trees absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which reduces our contribution to climate change and helps with air quality in cities such as Springfield, Holyoke, and Boston, as well as our own Pioneer Valley; and

Whereas, our understanding of climate change science moves quickly, and we constantly find out new things, many Massachusetts public land use policies regarding climate change are over 60 years old and out of date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Amherst Town Council supports the passage of both H.912 An Act Relative to Forest Protection and H.1002 An Act Relative to Increased Protection of Wildlife Management Areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Amherst Town Council shall cause a copy of this Resolution to be sent to Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker; Massachusetts President of the Senate Karen E. Spilka; Massachusetts Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano; Members of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture; State Senator Joanne N. Comerford; and State Representative Mindy Domb.

Voted this day of June 2021

J. Lynn Griesemer
President of the Amherst Town Council