

SENATE No. 562

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam G. Hinds

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act reducing unnecessary destruction of forests.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Adam G. Hinds

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden

SENATE No. 562

By Mr. Hinds, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 562) of Adam G. Hinds for legislation to reduce unnecessary destruction of forests. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act reducing unnecessary destruction of forests.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40 of Chapter 132 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking the second paragraph in its entirety and replacing it with the following:-

3 Therefore, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the commonwealth that all lands
4 devoted to forest growth shall be kept in such condition as shall not jeopardize the public
5 interests, and that the policy of the commonwealth shall further be one of cooperation with the
6 landowners and other agencies interested in forestry practices to preserve forested lands for the
7 betterment of the environment as a whole, to minimize cutting trees on all state-owned lands,
8 except as necessary to maintain proper forest health and safety.

9 SECTION 2. Section 11F of Chapter 25A of the General Laws is hereby amended in
10 subsection (b) by adding after the words solar thermal electric energy, the following:- “,
11 provided, that the solar photovoltaic or solar thermal electric energy source was not constructed
12 on previously forested lands”.