
From: roadbabin@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 10:08 AM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Cc: Steve Broderick
Subject: State Foresters Sorely Needed in Eastern Connecticut

There are no more "natural forests" in Connecticut. Forests need management to be conserved as forest.

A quick snapshot of what can happen to our forests can be observed on the roadsides of I-83 and Rte 384 in Manchester and East Hartford. Asian Bittersweet has enveloped, girdled and stangled huge trees, killing them. Multiple foreign invasive species are filling in open areas, not only displacing indigenous plants, but actually depositing toxins in the earth that prevent other indigenous plants from germinating. This has happened over a very short period. This same process is going on in our state forests.

With good management, this process can be controlled; and, perhaps stopped. With good management indigenous trees can survive; grow healthy and strong forests; provide habitat for native wild life; provide clean water and oxygenated air; provide educational and recreational opportunities for families and hiking groups; and, be harvested **at a profit** for our state.

Please be responsible and authorize the employment of State Foresters to manage the Eastern Connecticut State Forests.

Leonard R. Babin
58 Basketshop Rd
Hebron, CT 06248