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From: Claudia Swain <claudia.swain@gmail.com>
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To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

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Testimony in support of H7071/S 2352 Invasive Plant Management

From: Claudia Swain
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To: RI House Environment and Natural Resources
Committee
RI Senate Environment and Agriculture

I writing to voice my support of the bill H 7071, that prohibits the distribution and sale of invasive plants. It is an important step toward safeguarding Rhode Island's environment from degradation due the spread of non-native/invasive plants.

This legislation aligns RI with regional and national best practices:

- RI is the only New England state and one of only five states nationwide that does not regulate the sale of harmful invasive terrestrial plants.
- Clearly, the science of preserving and protecting our natural ecosystems by banning the sale of invasive plants has convinced the legislators across the United States to pass a bill banning them.

Invasive species reduce biodiversity, degrade soil health and water flow.

Invasives plants directly endanger our native species. They spread rapidly, displacing native plants that support pollinators, birds and healthy soil.

Invasives drive up the costs for towns, farmers and landowners who must manage them or remove them once established.

- Invasives like multiflora rose, Japanes bayberry and bittersweet dominated the property surrounding our community garden space in Wakefield. We have spent enormous amounts of time removing invasives, making room for native plants which provide great benefits for the pollinators needed for our gardens to produce healthy crops.
- Bittersweet is responsible for choking many of the native trees and overtaking the beautiful stone walls that are prevalent throughout southern RI.

Please vote in favor of this bill's passage.

Sincerely,
Claudia Swain

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