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From: Anna Therien <therienanna@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 7:20 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Support for H7071

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Chair Bennett and honorable members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Anna Therien and I am writing to urge you to support H7071 (Boylan), which would prohibit the importation, transportation, disbursement, distribution, sale, or purchase of any species that are non-native invasive plants. My educational background is in environmental science, and a large majority of my classes focused on the effect that non-native invasive species can have on an environment. In my classes, we would spend hours working on our campus removing invasive species. I know how gruelling the work can be.

If this bill were to pass, it would help prevent the spread of invasive species. Rhode Island already regulates invasive aquatic plants, but does not do the same for terrestrial plants. Furthermore, Rhode Island is the only state in New England that does not have a restricted plant list. Passing this bill would not require people who currently have invasive plants to take action, it would just limit any additional damage the continuous sale of invasive species would cause on environments.

I kindly ask that this bill be passed out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Thank you,

Anna Therien
Pawtucket, RI