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From: Cindy Pierce <cindyleipierce@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 10:48 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep_Knight
Subject: Support for H7071: The RI Invasives Plant Management Bill of 2026

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

My name is Cindy Pierce and I live in Barrington, RI. I am writing in my capacity as a volunteer and former board member of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust, a founding member of the Barrington Pollinator Pathway, a URI Master Gardener, and a co-steward of the Town of Barrington Resilience Garden.

I am writing to urge you to support H7071 (Boylan), which would prohibit the importation, transportation, disbursement, distribution, sale, or purchase of any species of non-native (exotic) invasive plants. This bill would prohibit the sale of these plant species at nurseries, garden centers and anywhere plants are sold in the state.

There are so many important reasons this bill should get passed, but I want to highlight one you may not hear as much about.

In the state of RI, anyone that walks into a local nursery or garden center and admires a plant or shrub for its form or beauty, has no idea if that plant is invasive. There's no information required to be on the tag or label that would give someone any clue that they're about to purchase a plant that could create havoc in the future -- not only in their own garden, but in landscapes and gardens far beyond their own borders.

Shoppers all across the state of RI unwittingly purchase plants that are not allowed to be sold in other states because of the harm they cause. This is not only ecologically harmful, but needless, since there are so many beautiful and useful alternatives to invasive plants.

Yesterday, Jan. 20, 2026, New Jersey passed the Invasives Species Management Act, which prohibits sale, distribution, import, export, and propagation of certain invasive species (<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2026/S1218>). This means Rhode Island is now one of only four states, including Kentucky, Louisiana, and Georgia, without a prohibited plant list.

This bill is long overdue. Please pass this bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Cindy Pierce
Barrington, RI