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From: Corrie Pikul <cbpikul@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 9:28 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. Boylan, Jennifer; Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.
Subject: Support for H7071

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

My name is Corrie Pikul and I live in Barrington, RI.

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.

Invasive plants are a specific category of non-native plant that have been shown to wreak havoc on local ecosystems by spreading exponentially and crowding out native plants species. The problem is that most people don't know an invasive plant when they see one, and often buy them accidentally. That's what happened to us: when we asked at a local nursery about native plants that were beneficial for the environment, we were sold a large, expensive butterfly bush. We had no idea that the butterfly bush was a highly invasive plant that actually *reduces* native butterfly populations! I'm sure this happens all the time. Like many amateur gardeners, I love plants and greenery and want to see local ecosystems thrive. I do not want to be unwittingly complicit in harming the environment.

Rhode Island is one of only five states without a prohibited plant sale list, a list that restricts the sale and distribution of invasive plants, and the only state in New England without one. This bill would prohibit the sale of these plant species at nurseries, garden centers and anywhere plants are sold in the state. With the passage of this helpful bill, well-intentioned gardeners like me would be less likely to accidentally buy an invasive, harmful plant, and would be more likely to make a choice that is better and more sustainable for their garden as well as for the surrounding environment.

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

Sincerely,
Corrie Pikul
Barrington, RI