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From: Courtney Oman <courtneyoman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 1:01 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. Cortvriend, Terri-Denise
Subject: Support for H7071

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DATE: January 21, 2026

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

My name is Courtney Oman and I live in Portsmouth, 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.

As a former fine gardener and fine gardening business owner, I have witnessed firsthand the damage caused by invasive species and have spent countless hours attempting their removal. Throughout my career, I've always wondered why it was legal for these plants to be sold in the first place. The problem is that everyday gardeners who purchase these plants at nurseries have no idea they're buying something harmful—they assume that if a plant is being sold at a reputable garden center, it must be "safe" to plant. This false sense of security has allowed invasive species to spread throughout our state.

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. 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 plant species.

This bill would prohibit the sale of these plant species at nurseries, garden centers and anywhere plants are sold in the state.

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

Sincerely,
Courtney Oman

Portsmouth, RI