

Lou Mansolillo

From: dylan gamache <dylangamache1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:29 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. Cotter, Megan L.
Subject: Dylan Gamache RE: Support for H7071 2/17/2026

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

My name is Dylan Gamache and I live in Richmond. 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. Part of what makes Rhode island a special place is its remaining open natural spaces. Which are responsible for cleaning our air and water cooling and protecting our soil and supporting the local food webs. These areas are being threatened not only from overdevelopment but quietly from within due to invasive plants. If you spend a short amount of time getting to learn some of these invasive plants and go for a walk anywhere in the state you are sure to find them. Grasslands are becoming hard to navigate due to bittersweet tangles tripping you and barberry and multiflora rose sharp thorns. Not to mention all of the threats to our native trees from introduced pests and diseases that arrived on shipped nursery stock which usually becomes an invasive species. If we keep loosing tree species forests and open spaces most of the ecosystem services we depend on that we probably don't recognize will fade away. I think this a small step to help slow the spread of these plants, protect what makes Rhode island special and to educate people on the impacts your property has on the ecosystem as a whole. 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 plants 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, Dylan Gamache Richmond