

January 20, 2026

**Testimony in support of H7071: The RI Invasives Plant Management Bill of 2026**

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

I am writing to urge you to support H7071, the Rhode Island Invasive Plant Management Act.

Non-native invasive plants wreak havoc on local ecosystems by spreading exponentially, crowding out native plant species, and reducing food sources for native wildlife. Areas weakened by the proliferation of non-natives are less resilient to the increasing threats of climate change, including flooding and drought. Because non-native invasive plants tend to thrive in disturbed environments, their presence contributes to a costly and destructive cycle.

**Rhode Island is one of only five states without a prohibited plant sale list, and the only state in New England without one.** Regulations are successful in preventing invasive plant invasions, but the continued sale of invasive plant species in Rhode Island jeopardizes the work of neighboring states who are ahead on this issue.<sup>1</sup>

Please pass bill H7071 and prohibit the sale of invasive plant species at nurseries, garden centers and anywhere plants are sold in the state.

Jessica Allen



Barrington, Rhode Island

<sup>1</sup> Beaury EM, Patrick M, and Bradley BA. 2021. Invaders for sale: the ongoing spread of invasive species by the plant trade industry. *Frontiers in Ecology and Environment*, [doi:10.1002/fee.2392](https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2392).