

Lou Mansolillo

From: Julie Zorach <julie.zorach@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 5:56 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.; Sen. DiPalma, Louis P.
Subject: H7071 Support

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Dear Chair Bennett and members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to strongly urge you to support H7071, which would prohibit the importation, transportation, disbursement, distribution, sale, or purchase of any species of non-native invasive plants.

This bill makes sense and is necessary. Many of these plants crowd out native plants, sometimes even establishing monocultures where nothing else can grow, often degrade the environment, and are extremely hard to control, let alone eradicate. You probably have all seen dense stands of phragmites and Japanese knotweed, and may unfortunately have them near or at your homes; there are so many of these stands that they are hard to ignore. They are just the tip of the iceberg; there are many other plants that can wreak similar damage. The costs associated with trying to eradicate these plants is quite significant and the decrease in property values when these problem plants are present is not insignificant.

We are behind the times where plants like these are concerned. Rhode Island is one of only five states without a prohibited plant sale list, and the only one in New England. There are good reasons so many states have such laws.

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

Sincerely,

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