

Lou Mansolillo

From: Kerry G. O'Neill <KOneill@barrington.ri.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 10:00 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. Boylan, Jennifer
Subject: Support for H7071 - The RI Invasives Plant Management Bill of 2026

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

My name is Kerry O'Neill. I live in Barrington, Rhode Island and serve on the Barrington Town Council.

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 I novice gardener this bill is particularly important to me. Passing H7071 will bring me peace of mind. Knowing that while shopping for plants in Rhode Island, I will not mistakenly purchase or unknowingly be sold a plant that would ultimately be harmful to myself, my family, and eventually my neighbors is reassuring. Knowing that plants purchased in Rhode Island will benefit the local ecosystem and not harm it is exciting. I look forward to passage of H7071 and all the beneficial plant shopping that will occur at nurseries and garden centers throughout Rhode Island.

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

Sincerely,

Kerry O'Neill

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