

Lou Mansolillo

From: Norm Dudziak <barrington-invasives@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 12:38 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: jboylan4ri@gmail.com
Subject: Support for H7071 (Boylan)

You don't often get email from barrington-invasives@cox.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Email: HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov

CC: jboylan4ri@gmail.com

FROM: Norman A. Dudziak Jr., PE, IM

RE: Support for H7071 (Boylan)

DATE: 21 January 2026

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

My name is Norman Dudziak and I live in Barrington, 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.

I am the Science Liaison for the Barrington Land Conservation Trust (BLCT), a CRMC certified Invasives Manager (IM), and a retired environmental engineer. I have seen how much invasive plants have affected the lands owned or managed by the BLCT, whose Trails Team spends most of their efforts attempting to control these plants. Decades ago, I used to live in southeastern Connecticut, which is more severely affected by invasive plants than is Barrington. This bill would help to keep Barrington and other areas of Rhode Island from going the way of Connecticut, by cutting off a source of new infestations. Connecticut and most other states have done their part by prohibiting sales of certain plants; so should Rhode Island at this time.

Rhode Island is one of only 5 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. Research has shown that 60% of invasive plants are introduced through their intentional sale and planting.

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

Sincerely,

Norman A. Dudziak Jr., PE, IM