

Lou Mansolillo

From: Samanthe Sheffer <singingphoenixconsulting@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 9:06 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Sen. Raptakis, Leonidas P.; Rep. Read, III, Earl A.
Subject: H7071 and H7074

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TO: Chair Bennett and members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Email: HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov

CC: Senator Raptakis and Representative Read

FROM: Sam Sheffer

RE: Support for H7071 and H7074

DATE: January 21st, 2026

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

My name is Sam Sheffer, and I live in Coventry.

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. H7074, which would require RIDOT to plant pollinator friendly native plant species along state roads when appropriate, is an excellent means of improving Rhode Island's ecosystems and food supplies.

As a landscape designer, advisor, and owner of a large property that was buried in invasive shrubs and vines I witness, and work to manage, the dangerous spread of invasive plants in our state, choking out the plants of benefit to our food supply and healthy ecosystems.

Rhode Island is one of only five U.S. states, and the only New England state that does not protect itself and neighbors with a prohibited plant sale list--a list that restricts the sale and distribution of invasive plants. 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 (and other chosen plants).

H 7071 would prohibit the sale of these plant species at nurseries, garden centers and anywhere plants are sold in the state (primarily large national "big box" stores). H7074 would significantly increase beneficial diversity, and aid in linking pollinator pathways.

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

Sincerely,

Sam Sheffer, Coventry