

January 21, 2026

To whom it may concern:

Hello! I am writing to express my sincere and utmost support of the proposed bill H7071, being put forth by Rep. Boylan and colleagues. If passed, H7071 would prohibit the importation, transportation, disbursement, distribution, sale, or purchase of any species of non-native (exotic) invasive plants.

As a landscape professional, RI-certified Invasive Plant Management Specialist, and homeowner who lives in Riverside, I am keenly aware of the ecological damage that non-native invasive plants pose to our local native flora. Not only do these species suffocate and outcompete native plant material but they also are known to cause significant damage to dwellings, residential units, etc if not correctly managed or removed. Proposing the regulation of these ecologically-damaging invasive plants would not only position Rhode Island alongside our other New England neighbors but would also provide essential educational resources for both the public and the trades. Passing this bill out of committee today and onto the House floor with a recommendation for passage is a vital step in initiating this process.

Native plant material and native pollinators (including but not limited to bees, wasps, flies, moths, etc.) have co-evolved over millennia to fulfill ecological niches. Non-native, invasive plant material that has been introduced poses an enormous risk to these relationships. While passing this bill will not eradicate the non-native invasive plants that have taken hold all over our state, it will certainly guarantee that both the trades and the public are best positioned to help remediate declining local ecologies.

I appreciate your time on this issue.

Thank you!

Victoria Canel

RI Invasive Plant Manager No. 507

District 65 - Riverside (East Providence)