

Lou Mansolillo

From: Cindy Pierce <cindyleipierce@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 10:52 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep_Knight
Subject: Support for H7074:

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

My name is Cindy Pierce and I live in Barrington, RI. I am writing in my capacity as a volunteer and former board member of the Barrington Land Conservation Trust, a founding member of the Barrington Pollinator Pathway, a URI Master Gardener, and a co-steward of the Town of Barrington Resilience Garden.

I am writing to urge you to support H7074 (McGaw), which would authorize and empower RIDOT to plant pollinator friendly native plant species along state roads.

Pollinators suffer not only from loss of habitat, but lack of connected habitat. Pollinators require continuous and connected habitat to survive, these are called wildlife corridors, or pollinator pathways. Roadside planting of native plant species would help by both expanding and connecting fragmented habitat.

Once established, native plantings require far less maintenance than conventional plantings or turf grass. Constant mowing isn't necessary, nor is watering, which would lower the cost of maintaining roadsides for RIDOT across the state. Labor and fuel costs would be reduced, and with fewer machines mowing, blowing and maintaining the grass found on roadsides, there will be less pollution emitted into the air.

And on a purely aesthetic level, views of pollinator friendly shrubs, flowers and grasses while driving RI highways is preferable any day to miles and miles of turf grass (that provide zero benefit to pollinators). Beauty and benefits!

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

Sincerely,

Cindy Pierce
Barrington, RI