

Lou Mansolillo

From: Heather R <hrsunrise@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 8:02 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Testimony in support of H7074 Plant native plants along our roadways

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January 21, 2026

Heather Riess
50 Tompkins Lane
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To: RI House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

I writing to voice my support of the bill that requires the Department of Transportation to plant native plants, shrubs and trees along our roads and highways.

1) Lowers the cost of maintaining the roadsides throughout the state.

- Mowing costs time and money. Labor, equipment maintenance and cost of fuel.
- All the mowing that the DOT does is using a huge amount of gas, polluting the air that we breathe.
- Native plants require less mowing, watering and herbicides.

2) Native plants have deep root systems which improve stormwater management and erosion control, stabilize slopes and reduce vegetation overgrowth.

- Native plantings out-compete invasives - Reduces invasive species spread/vegetation overgrowth.

3) Supports pollinators and wildlife.

- Highways cut through critical wildlife corridors
- Native plants planted along roadsides can become long, continuous pollinator pathways.

I believe we can save the state money and improve the appearance of our roadways by implementing this initiative. Planting native plants will have a significant impact on the health of our state with cleaner air and cleaner water. It's a win-win for our state!

Sincerely,

Heather Riess

Sent from my iPhone