

Lou Mansolillo

From: Kerry G. O'Neill <KOneill@barrington.ri.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 11:17 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.; Rep. Boylan, Jennifer
Subject: Support for H7074 - Pollinator Plantings on State Roads

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

My name is Kerry O'Neill. I live in Barrington, Rhode Island and serve on the Barrington Town Council.

I am writing to urge you to support H7074 (McGaw), which would require the department of transportation to plant pollinator friendly native species of trees, shrubs, grasses and plants within limits of a roadway, including state highways.

Passage of this bill will positively impact the health and wellbeing of every citizen of Rhode Island. Pollinator friendly native plants are not only beautiful, but they are also beneficial to our entire ecosystem. They reduce soil erosion and keep out weeds. They tolerate heat and drought. They improve habitat for pollinators including honeybees, native bees, birds, bats, and butterflies—critical contributors to Rhode Island's economy, food system, and environmental health. Pollinator friendly native plants are a win-win!

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

Sincerely,

Kerry O'Neill

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