

Testimony in support of H7074

Plant native plants along our roadways

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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,

Lavinia Gadsden

Michelle McGaw is my State Rep.