

Testimony in support of House Bill 7074, House Environment Committee January 22, 2026.

Peter Trafton, Providence, RI

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I write with enthusiastic support for House Bill number 7074 by Rep McGaw and colleagues.

This bill promotes the Department of Transportation's planting of pollinator-friendly native species of plants along the roadsides. It wisely requires the DOT to obtain suggestions regarding plants and planting locations that are appropriate for the roadsides and for pollinators to promote growth of healthy plants as well as to increase pollinator habitats at a time which is rather hostile to them.

My wife and I notice that very few insects land on our car windshield now, compared to what we saw a decade or 2 ago. The insects are disappearing for various reasons, but they are important ecologically and their absence will greatly harm our state and its ecosystems.

Please support H7074 and help make Rhode Island Green Again.

Thanks very much for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PG Trafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the "P" and "G" being particularly prominent.

Peter G. Trafton, M.D.