

Lou Mansolillo

From: ramona silk <gardenlifegardens@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 6:52 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: passing of bills H7071 and 7074

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

My name is Ramona Silk and I live in Barrington.

I am writing to urge you to support H7171, which would prohibit the importation, transportation, disbursement, distribution, sale or purchase of any species of non-native, invasive plants. Invasive plants pose a serious threat to RI ecosystems and ecosystems everywhere. These species out compete our native plants through seed dispersal, underground roots and other means, reducing biodiversity and degrading habitats everywhere they take root. They are nearly impossible to eradicate once established, and they establish themselves quickly.

I have a small residential landscape design and installation business, and almost daily on the job I have seen the negative impact of invasive plants in homeowner's properties. Our local Barrington woods and along the bike path are filled with invasives. I feel it is time to do something about this. RI is one of only five states without a prohibited plant sale list and the only state in New England without one. This bill would prohibit the sale of these plant species at nurseries, garden centers and anywhere plants are sold in the state.

At this time, I would also like to voice my support for bill 7074, which would require RIDOT to plant pollinator friendly native plant species along state roads. Even small changes, like planting native wildflowers and native flowering shrubs will provide nectar for bees, butterflies and other insects that are in decline due to habitat loss and pesticide use. These plantings would add native ecosystems (also in decline) and biodiversity to our state, require less maintenance once established, reduce mowing substantially, reduce labor costs and fuel use and it would be beautiful.

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

Sincerely,
Ramona Silk
Barrington