

February 26, 2026

Testimony **in support of H7736:**

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

I respectfully urge you to support **H7736** (Boylan), which would prohibit the use of artificial turf as material to cover compacted solid waste at a sanitary landfill; establish a landfill plant cover pilot program to determine feasibility and benefits of using a grass mix with pollinators as landfill cover; and require Rhode Island Resource Recovery to develop a system for tracking and reporting on artificial turf disposal volume and weight.

Capping landfill surfaces with plastic artificial turf will condemn hundreds of acres in Johnston to eternal ecological dead space. In contrast, capping with layers of soil and native pollinator plants will transform a contaminated environment into a productive, sustainable wildlife habitat—one that naturally sequesters carbon and protects surface water and groundwater.<sup>1</sup>

**Humans won't survive without pollinators.** Yet we continue destroying habitat and burning fossil fuels which today puts over 22% of North American pollinators at risk of extinction.<sup>2</sup> Strategies that ensure their survival ensure our survival. This legislation offers one such tool.

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

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Allen



Barrington, Rhode Island

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.waste360.com/landfill/landfill-revegetation-the-hidden-assets>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.2418742122>