

Lou Mansolillo

From: Kenda Swartz <kendaswartz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 9:01 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. Speakman, June
Subject: Kenda Swartz / Support for H7736

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Note: Please disregard my original message on February 22 @ 8:11 PM as I had an incorrect subject line. Thank you!

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

My name is Kenda, and I live in Bristol.

I am writing to respectfully urge you to support H7736 (Boylan). This bill would prohibit the use of artificial turf as material to cover compacted solid waste at a sanitary landfill, establish a pilot program to explore using a grass mix with pollinators as landfill cover, and require Rhode Island Resource Recovery to track and report the amount of artificial turf being disposed of in our state.

As a resident of Bristol, I care deeply about the health of our environment and the legacy we leave for future generations. Rhode Island is small, and what we choose to bury in our landfills matters. Artificial turf is made of plastics and synthetic materials that do not break down naturally. When these products reach the end of their useful life, they become waste that will sit in our landfills for decades. We should not be expanding or normalizing that waste stream without fully understanding its long-term impacts, nor should we be contributing further to landfills we are trying to manage responsibly.

At the very least, we deserve transparency. Tracking how much artificial turf is being disposed of is a simple, reasonable step that allows lawmakers and residents to make informed decisions.

I am especially encouraged by the pilot program proposed in this bill. Exploring the use of real grass with pollinator-friendly plants as landfill cover reflects the kind of thoughtful, forward-looking approach Rhode Island should embrace. Supporting pollinators, improving habitat, and choosing living plant cover over synthetic materials aligns with the values many of us hold about stewardship and sustainability.

This bill represents a practical and responsible step toward better waste management and environmental care in our state.

I respectfully ask you to pass H7736 out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kenda Swartz

February 23, 2026