

Chairwoman Alzate and Honorable Members of the House Special Legislation Committee:

My name is Jan Archibald and I live in Warren, Rhode Island. I am writing in my capacity as a member of the Environmental Committee of the Bristol Garden Club to urge you to support H7230 (McGaw), which would declare the month of May as "Native Plant Month".

Native plants are an essential element for sustainable, resilient and life supporting gardens and landscapes. These plants have evolved over thousands of years to live in ecological balance with our native wildlife. Native plants support critical pollinators--birds, butterflies, moths—as well as other beneficial insects. This support is much more than providing nectar during the summer. Native plants provide support throughout the life cycle of local pollinators. A healthy ecosystem of pollinators provides essential support for the state's farming industry. Native plants are an essential tool in stormwater management. They don't require chemical fertilizers or pesticides, and they are well adapted to our local climate.

Declaring May "Native Plant Month" will be a good start in raising public awareness of the many and varied benefits of native plants.

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

Sincerely,

Jan Archibald

Warren, RI