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## Support for The RI Invasives Plant Management Bill, S2352

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**From** Christine Jocelyn <cjocelyn94@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 4/8/2026 2:58 PM

**To** SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

**Cc** Rep. Speakman, June <rep-speakman@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Felag, Jr., Walter S. <sen-felag@rilegislature.gov>

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Dear Chair Sosnowski and honorable members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee,

My name is Christine Jocelyn, and I live in Bristol.

I am writing to urge you to support S2352 (McKenney) which would prohibit the importation, transportation, disbursement, distribution, sale, or purchase of any species of non-native (exotic) invasive plants.

Invasive plants represent a persistent threat to the ecological integrity and economic viability of Rhode Island and the nation. The creation, maintenance, and enforcement of prohibited plant lists are vital policy tools for addressing these challenges. Continued legislative support and interagency collaboration are necessary to safeguard biodiversity, promote sustainable land use, and reduce the ongoing costs associated with invasive plant management. Ironically, as I send this, I just read that my local Bristol DPW team has been out today removing invasive bittersweet in order to protect our trees and tree canopy.

Rhode Island is one of only four states without a prohibited plant sale list, a list that restricts the sale and distribution of invasive plants. We are the only state in New England without one. Invasive plants are a specific category of non-native plant that have been shown to wreak havoc on local ecosystems (see my note above about bittersweet as an example) by spreading exponentially and crowding out native plant species.

This bill would prohibit the sale of these plant species at nurseries, garden centers, and anywhere plants are sold in the state. Research has shown that 60% of invasive plants are introduced through their intentional sale and planting (EM, Beaury, Patrick M, and Bradley BA. "Invaders for sale: the ongoing spread of invasive species by the plant trade industry." 2021).

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

Sincerely,  
Christine Jocelyn  
Bristol