
I support the R.I. Invasives Plant Management Bill S2353

From David Smith <dsmithmark@cox.net>

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To SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Sosnowski, V. Susan <sen-sosnowski@rilegislature.gov>

Cc Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan <rep-McEntee@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. DiMario, Alana <sen-dimario@rilegislature.gov>

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Dear Senator Sosnowski,

I am writing in support of the Senate Bill S2353, Rhode Island Invasives Plant Management. I am a Rhode Island Resident and registered voter and have been certified as a Coastal Invasive Plant Manager by the URI/CRMC for over 10 years.

We are the only New England State that allows the sale of invasive plants at big box stores and local garden centers. When I attend IPM conferences throughout New England, attendees ask when is Rhode Island going to assist in prohibiting the sale of invasive plants. It is embarrassing. This is a job we should be doing together.

I have worked at Canonchet Farm in Narragansett as a project manager for seven years to remove invasive plants from the coastal ponds across from Narragansett Beach, and at Taylor Point in Jamestown. These plants should never have been there in the first place. Many have migrated from home landscaping and road landscaping projects in the past. It is back breaking work to remove invasives from these sites but the plants are a threat to local plants and wildlife.

S2353 will allow the RI DEM in conjunction with the Rhode Island Natural History Survey to create a list of Invasive Plants that should not be sold in our state - along with Invasive Plant Lists from other states. These lists would be used for future plant purchases. Gardeners would also be encouraged to replace invasives in their yards with native plants.

We want our Rhode Island Landscape to be healthy. Plants and animals will not flourish in an invasive plant area. The passage of S2353 will be a giant step in this direction.

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