

---

## Support for S2353

---

**From** Jacqueline Hall <jacqueline.e.hall@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 4/8/2026 11:57 AM

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

**Cc** Rep. Sanchez, Enrique George <rep-Sanchez@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Bell, Samuel W. <sen-bell@rilegislature.gov>

You don't often get email from jacqueline.e.hall@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Chair and honorable members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee:

My name is Jacq Hall and I live in Providence, RI.

I am writing to urge you to support S2353 (McKenney), which would prohibit the importation, transportation, disbursement, distribution, sale, or purchase of any species of non-native (exotic) invasive plants.

I work in urban forestry throughout northern Rhode Island and am shocked to see that invasive plants are still routinely sold by nurseries to unsuspecting customers (while they are banned in all surrounding states). It is not only of aesthetic importance to maintain the distinct landscape character of our state by banning invasives, it is imperative to the continued existence of our native biodiversity. Biodiversity loss is not just a far flung issue in places like the Amazon rainforest, we have a fundamental moral and ethical responsibility to reciprocate the many gifts of our local flora and fauna by better stewarding our landscapes. We also owe it to future generations to protect these relationships with native species. Not all nature is created equal, Rhode Islanders should have access to high quality nature - nature that is entangled in relationships that supports LIFE, not barren wastelands of non-native plants that do not feed wildlife. We also must protect our native ecosystems for our own safety - we depend on native plants and the food chains they support. The work of restoring native flora and their food chains is incredibly rewarding when resources are devoted to it. It is much easier and more affordable than building and maintaining roads and other major infrastructure projects. Let's take this necessary first step!

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, and 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 by spreading exponentially and crowding out native plants 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 (Beaury et al., 2021). Please pass this bill out of committee and to the Senate floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Jacq Hall, Providence