

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

CC: Senator Pam Lauria

FROM: Lynn E. Taylor MD

RE: Support for S2352 The RI Invasives Plant Management Bill

DATE: April 6, 2026

My name is Lynn E. Taylor and I live in Barrington.

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

Non-native invasive plants out-compete native plants, reduce biodiversity, and disrupt habitats for wildlife and pollinators. By prohibiting the sale, transport, and possession of invasive non-native plant species, S2352 supports long-term ecological balance and would help maintain the state's natural landscapes.

Rhode Island is one of only five 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 plant species. Invasive species lack natural predators in their new environments, and thus reproduce rapidly, outcompeting native species for water and space. This imbalance can lead to the extinction of native wildlife and collapse of ecosystems, leading to economic losses.

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,

Lynn E. Taylor MD

Barrington, RI

EM, Beaury, Patrick M, and Bradley BA. "Invaders for sale: the ongoing spread of invasive species by the plant trade industry." 2021.