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**RE: Support for S2352 DATE: 9 April 2026**

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**From** Melanie DeSantis <desantismel@gmail.com>

**Date** Thu 4/9/2026 9:37 AM

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

**Cc** Rep. Kennedy, Brian Patrick <rep-Kennedy@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Gu, Victoria <sen-gu@rilegislature.gov>

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

**CC:** Victoria Gu and Brian Patrick Kennedy

**FROM:** Melanie DeSantis

**RE:** Support for S2352 DATE: 9 April 2026

Chair and honorable members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee: My name is Melanie DeSantis and am a constituent of Westerly, RI. 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.

Rhode Island is such a small state. Visit any wooded area and the impact of invasive species is glaring and apparent. Invasive species exist outside their natural habitats such that they disrupt the ecological balance at the detriment to other flora and the fauna that depend on them. Not to mention there is so much beauty in native plants flourishing in their natural environment.

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,

Melanie DeSantis

Westerly, Rhode Island

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