

Support for bill number S2352

From Michael Veracka <dirtyhands@msn.com>

Date Tue 4/7/2026 8:25 AM

To SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Valverde, Bridget G. <sen-valverde@rilegislature.gov>

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

Email: SLegislation@rilegislature.gov

CC: sen-valverde@rilegislature.gov

FROM: dirtyhands@msn.com

RE: Support for bill number **S2352**

DATE: 4/7/26

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

My name is Michael Veracka and I live in North Kingstown.

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

I am an educator, landscape designer, steward of the environment, and active user of Rhode Island's open spaces. I have witnessed the invasion of invasive plants in greater numbers as I hike within RI's open spaces, visit and work in private landscapes, and travel throughout RI. A plethora of invasive species, many introduced for sale by private interests, encroach upon and supplant native species, altering our environment in numerous detrimental ways. But we can do something about this problem.

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.

This bill would prohibit the sale of these plant species at nurseries, garden centers, and anywhere plants are sold in the state.

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

Sincerely,

Michael Veracka

North Kingstown, RI