

Dear Committee members, I write in support of S 2352.

Native plants are an integral part of a forest ecosystem. Insects, reptiles, mammals, and birds depend on these native plants.

However, these native plants are threatened by invasive plant species that thrive in disturbed areas.

When a native forest is logged, the removal of the tree canopy allows more sunlight to reach the forest floor which invasives thrive on.

For example, when trees are cut down instead of trimmed near power lines, it leads to invasives growing along the roads.

This has become a serious issue in Warwick where I live.

In Rhode Island, invasive species are now outcompeting native plants.

Please pass S 2352, to help stop the invasives epidemic in Rhode Island, and to protect our native plants.

Thank you,

Nathan Cornell

President of the Rhode Island Old Growth Tree Society

Warwick, RI 02886

saveriforests.org