
Support for S2353

From Sherry Dzamba <sdzamba11@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/7/2026 4:19 PM

To SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

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

CC: sen-bell@rilegislature.gov rep-hull@rilegislature.gov

FROM: Sherry Dzamba

RE: Support for S2353

DATE: April 7, 2026

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

My name is Sherry Dzamba and I live in Providence.

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

It dismays me that Rhode Island is one of only four states without a prohibited plant sale list. As both a URI Master Gardener and an avid hiker of Rhode Island's many land conservancies, I've been increasingly witnessing the havoc these aggressive exotics can cause in our natural ecosystems. In many of the woods I frequent, extensive thickets of Japanese barberry and multiflora rose are replacing native shrubs in the understory. Winged euonymus and Japanese knotweed clog brooks and streams. Oriental bittersweet chokes off 50-year old trees. My understanding is that 60% of all invasive plant species started off as ornamentals in the nursery trade. Every year, Master Gardeners, conservancy groups, and local volunteers spend hundreds of hours trying to knock back these invasives. This is a hidden cost of the nursery trade that the public should not have to bear. If we can't control the deer population that is destroying our natural landscapes (no one is selling or profiting off of the sale of deer), we can at least have some control over the sale of exotic plant species that have escaped domestication and now threaten whole natural ecosystems. Please pass S2353 out of committee and to the Senate floor with a recommendation for passage.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sherry Dzamba, Providence