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**S2352**

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**From** Susan Lepore <susanlepore@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 4/6/2026 10:17 PM

**To** SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Sosnowski, V. Susan <sen-sosnowski@rilegislature.gov>

**Cc** Sen. Rogers, Gordon E. <sen-rogers@rilegislature.gov>

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April 6, 2026

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

My name is Susan Lepore and I live in N Scituate. 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.

I struggle daily with invasive plants. I have bittersweet, wild rose, garlic mustard, Asian honeysuckle and more growing on my property and the reservoir property next door. The plant that upsets me the most is the Japanese barberry. I bought one plant because I was told it was a sterile variety and the deer wouldn't eat it. The deer don't eat it, but it turned out to not be sterile. I bought it from a reputable nursery. We must stop the continued introduction of plants that harm our 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,  
Susan Lepore  
North Scituate

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Susan Lepore  
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The impeded stream is the one that sings - Wendell Berry