



April 9, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Senate Housing & Municipal Government Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for Senate Bill 2574

Dear Chairperson and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA), I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2574, relating to municipal regulation of powered landscape equipment.

RINLA represents a broad network of green industry professionals across Rhode Island, including landscape contractors, arborists, nursery operators, and horticultural service providers. Our members are predominantly small businesses that serve communities statewide and contribute to the state's economy, environmental health, and overall quality of life.

Senate Bill 2574 provides critical regulatory consistency by prohibiting municipalities from restricting landscaping equipment based solely on its power source. As written, the bill ensures that businesses operating across multiple municipalities are not subject to a patchwork of inconsistent local ordinances, which can create significant operational challenges, increase compliance costs, and disrupt service delivery.

Importantly, the legislation maintains reasonable local authority by allowing municipalities to regulate noise, hours of operation, and public safety concerns—so long as those regulations are applied in a content-neutral manner. This balanced approach protects both community interests and the ability of small businesses to operate efficiently.

Our members are committed to innovation and sustainability, and many are actively incorporating new technologies into their operations. However, transitions in equipment—particularly those involving significant capital investment—must be practical and

achievable. Sudden or inconsistent local restrictions can impose undue burdens on businesses and their employees.

Senate Bill 2574 strikes an appropriate balance between local governance and the need for uniform statewide standards, ensuring fairness, predictability, and economic stability for Rhode Island's green industry.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association respectfully urges the Committee to support Senate Bill 2574.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the State of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Marc Bialek

Executive Director

Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association

401-297-5809

executivedirector@rinla.org