



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 3029

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 3029, which addresses municipal regulation of landscaping equipment.

RINLA represents a broad network of green industry professionals across the state, including landscape contractors, nursery operators, arborists, and horticultural service providers. Our almost 200 member companies are small businesses that contribute significantly to Rhode Island's economy, environmental stewardship, and quality of life.

Senate Bill 3029 provides much-needed consistency and fairness in the regulation of landscaping equipment. By prohibiting municipalities from restricting equipment based solely on power source, the bill ensures that businesses can continue to operate efficiently without navigating a patchwork of differing local ordinances. This type of regulatory fragmentation creates operational challenges, increases costs, and places unnecessary burdens on small businesses that often serve multiple communities.

Importantly, the bill preserves the ability of municipalities to enact reasonable safety regulations while requiring that any substantial changes to equipment use be approved by voters. This approach strikes a thoughtful balance between local input and the need for predictable, statewide standards.

Our members are committed to adopting new technologies and practices that improve environmental outcomes. However, transitions in equipment—particularly from gas-powered to electric—require time, infrastructure, and significant financial investment. Mandating such changes at the municipal level without broad public input can be disruptive and economically harmful to local businesses.

Senate Bill 3029 supports a practical, measured approach that allows the industry to evolve responsibly while maintaining service reliability for homeowners, businesses, and municipalities alike.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association respectfully urges the Committee to support Senate Bill 3029.

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

Sincerely,

Marc Bialek
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Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association
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