

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Dominique Alfandre <dominique.alfandre@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 4:42 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Carson, Lauren H.  
**Subject:** House Bill 5099 - Letter of Support

Feb 4, 2025

Dear Mr. Mansolillo,

Please accept this email as written testimony in support of H5099, to be addressed at the House Environmental and Natural Resources Committee hearing on Thursday Feb 6.

As the bill is currently written, the Department of Transportation "shall" and "may" plant pollinator friendly native species of trees, shrubs and plants within limits of a roadway, including state highways. **I would encourage the use of the words "should" and "must."**

Rhode Island's roadsides offer significant space for investing in the birds, bees, and plants that live in our fragile environment. If ever there is a time to take every step possible to preserve this native ecosystem, it is today.

Rhode Island is home to more than 1,200 native plant species. Native plants are important to Rhode Island's rich biological heritage; they are a source of food for pollinators and native wildlife.

Native plants are—

- essential for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems.
- critical for cleaning air, filtering water, and stabilizing soils.
- a source of nectar, pollen, seeds, and foliage for native birds, caterpillars, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife, providing food that non-native plants cannot provide.
- well-adapted to Rhode Island's soils, temperatures, precipitation, and environmental conditions, which makes them the best option for conserving and protecting our environment and adapting to its changes. They are easy to plant and maintain, making them ideal for DOT's needs.

Thank you for caring about our future and that of our children and grandchildren,

Dominique Alfandre

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