

Lou Mansolillo

From: George Voutes <george_voutes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 12:32 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 5099

Hello, my name is George Voutes and I am writing in strong support of RI house bill 5099, which "authorizes and empowers the department of transportation to plant pollinator friendly native species of trees, shrubs, grasses and plants within limits of a roadway, including state highways."

This bill is an important step in promoting biodiversity and resiliency in Rhode Island. The plantings the bill promotes can reduce the need for landscaping maintenance, and also the use of fossil fuels. These plants also help retain and filter rainwater, preventing flooding on roads and keeping runoff out of our waters. It would demonstrate the value of native plants, home to wildlife, and help set an example for the public in creating healthier landscapes.

I would also like to see the scope of the bill broadened (or a separate bill introduced) to encourage pollinator plantings on more properties owned or managed by the state.

Sincerely,
George Voutes
Bristol, RI