

**From:** Ginny Greenwood <[randggreenwood@gmail.com](mailto:randggreenwood@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:08:23 AM  
**To:** [HouseEnvironmentalansNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseEnvironmentalansNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov)  
<[HouseEnvironmentalansNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseEnvironmentalansNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rep. McGaw, Michelle E. <[rep-mcgaw@rilegislature.gov](mailto:rep-mcgaw@rilegislature.gov)>  
**Subject:**

February 6, 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 encourage the use of the words "should" and "must."**

Roadsides offer significant space for habitat for the birds, bees, and plants that live in our fragile environment. We must take a stance today to take every step possible to preserve this native ecosystem. Our beautiful small state 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.

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

Virginia K. Greenwood

55 Quicksand Pond Road

Little Compton, RI 02837  
Little Compton RI 02837



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