



February 4, 2025

Dear Representative Bennett and members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Quiet Clean Rhode Island strongly supports House Bill No. 5099, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS-- CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF STATE ROADS.

This is a great way for the state to "Lead By Example." Pollinator habitat along our roads can highlight the beauty and value of native plants while providing valuable habitat and sustenance for pollinators at a time when they are facing steep population declines. Managing roadsides with pollinators in mind can also have the added benefit of reducing the need for maintenance, and therefore the use of fossil fuels; they can also serve the purpose of retaining and filtering rainwater, preventing flooding on roads and keeping runoff out of our waterways.

A [Handbook for Supporting Pollinators through Roadside Maintenance and Landscape Design](#), produced by the US Department of Transportation in collaboration with Xerces society, provides valuable strategies for managing roadsides in ways to maximize benefits to wildlife and safety for humans.

We hope you will broaden the scope of the bill and promote pollinator plantings on other properties owned or managed by the state.

Thank you,

Jennifer Martenson  
Chair, Quiet Clean RI  
Providence