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Attn: Representative Bennett, Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, and Committee Members

## **Comment in Support of H 5099**

An Act Relating to Highways- Construction and Maintenance of State Roads Before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

February 5, 2025

Rhode Island Farm Bureau Federation is an independent, non-governmental grassroots organization made up of farmers and others with agricultural interests. Today our 1000 plus RIFB members are not only large farmers and small farmers but also include those engaged in agricultural industries, teachers of agriculture, and consumers.

The Rhode Island Farm Bureau supports **H 5099** authorizing and empowering the department of transportation to plant pollinator friendly native species of trees, shrubs, grasses and plants within limits of a roadway, including state highways. We would like to recommend that the pollinator-friendly plants selected are not considered to be invasives in Rhode Island.

We ask you to support H 5099,

Henry & Wright T

Henry B. Wright III President, RI Farm Bureau