

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on House Bill No. 5013
Environment Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
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Co-Chairs Lopes and Parker, Vice-Chairs Hochadel and Bumgardner, Ranking Members Harding and Callahan, and members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) is the state's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its ~117 land trusts. CLCC is a 501(c)(3) organization operating statewide. Our mission is to elevate and strengthen land conservation in Connecticut.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in favor of **H.B. No. 5013**, **An Act Adding Certain Plants To The Invasive Plants List**, which would prohibit the sale, use, and distribution of certain invasive plants in the state.

Established in 2003 under Connecticut General Statutes (§22a-381 et seq.), the Invasive Plants Council is responsible for developing educational programs, recommending strategies for controlling invasive species, updating lists of invasive plants, supporting research on invasive plant control, promoting the development of noninvasive varieties, and advocating for legislative action to address the spread of invasive species. CLCC supports HB 5013, which seeks to implement the Invasive Plants Council's recent recommendations by prohibiting the sale and cultivation of certain plants determined to be invasive or potentially invasive.

[According to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection \(DEEP\)](#), invasive species significantly threaten Connecticut's biodiversity, ecological integrity, and human health. Through their aggressive growth, these non-native species compete with and displace native flora, leading to habitat degradation and loss of native species. The spread of invasives disrupts ecosystems and is a driver of biodiversity loss. These negative impacts are further exacerbated by climate change. The proliferation of invasives not only presents costly stewardship challenges in the field, both for public and private lands but also magnifies the social and economic impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.

By prohibiting the sale and cultivation of plants identified as invasive or potentially invasive by the Invasive Plants Council, we can prevent further introduction and spreading of these harmful species within our state. Such action is essential to safeguarding the health and resilience of our native ecosystems, which provide critical habitat for wildlife, support biodiversity, and offer recreational opportunities for our citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments and for all you do. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

