

Environment and Transportation Committee
Bill SB0915 – Invasive Plant Species Bill

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Roger Rasnake, and I live at 11616 Flints Grove Lane in North Potomac MD 20878.

I favorably support bill SB0915, and I do so strongly. The increase in the number and variety of invasive species in Maryland has brought severe consequences to the ecosystems and wildlife habitats throughout our state. As a Maryland Master Naturalist and a board member of the Muddy Branch Alliance, I have come to understand the detrimental impacts of invasive species on biodiversity, endangered species, and, especially, native plants.

- Invasive species outcompete native species for resources – nutrients, sunlight, moisture, and space – and alter the balance of local habitats. They may smother other vegetation and produce chemicals that inhibit the growth of native plants, degrading wildlife habitats.
- Invasive species contribute significantly to the decline of native biodiversity. Studies show that 42% of endangered and threatened species have been negatively affected by invasives. This disruption leads to population declines and even extinction of plant species and wildlife.
- Conserving native plants is crucial. Their millennial adaptation to local environments means they provide essential ecosystem services – soil stabilization, water purification, and pollination, among others – where they grow. Native plants support a wide range of wildlife, including insects, birds, and mammals, and are integral to the overall functioning of a sustainable environment.

Invasive species disrupt the delicate web of interactions that sustains ecosystems, affecting everything from soil microbes to larger animals. The Invasive Plant Species will provide the Departments of Agriculture and of Natural Resources with important tools needed to help citizens combat the introduction and proliferation of damaging invasive species.

Sincerely yours,



Roger Rasnake