



**Connecticut  
Florists  
Association**



**CONNECTICUT  
GREENHOUSE  
GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION**



**Connecticut  
Nursery &  
Landscape  
Association**

Statement of  
Bob Heffernan  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Green Industries Coalition  
before the  
Environment Committee / Connecticut General Assembly  
Supporting SB 790 • Invasive Plants

February 18, 2009

We ask the Committee's support for Senate Bill 790, which is the product of much work and agreement by all parties involved in the invasive plants issue.

This bill is essentially the same legislation that has come before the legislature in each of the past three years. It's long overdue for passage.

We also ask the Environment Committee's strong advocacy for keeping alive the state's invasive plants efforts through the tough budget deliberations. The Connecticut Invasive Plants Council should NOT be abolished as proposed in the Governor's budget. The Council costs the state nothing — it has no budget and no staff. The Council was created by statute. The nine members donate their time and resources—a lot of it.

Also, the previous state budget appropriated \$1 million over the two-year period for invasive plants. We ask that the next two-year budget allocate at least \$200,000—which would be an **80 per cent cut**—to maintain bare minimum program needs (continue the state invasive plants coordinator and vital inspections by the Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station).