



ASLA

**Submitted By: Roderick Cameron, President
Connecticut Chapter of The American Society of
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My name is Rod Cameron. I am a licensed landscape architect, and am employed at CCA, LLC, a Brookfield, CT-based company providing civil engineering, surveying and landscape architectural services. I am also the president of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The Connecticut Chapter of ASLA believes that **Proposed Bill No. 5370, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC PROJECTS AND THE OFFICIAL STATE FLOWER**, is a bill that may have serious repercussions to Connecticut businesses and, more importantly, the environment, if passed.

Mandating a percentage of Mountain Laurel to be included in state-funded projects that include plantings ignores specific cultural and design considerations that must be considered when planting plans are developed. Mountain Laurel is a difficult plant to use in public landscapes as the cultural requirements mandate certain specific conditions which are often not available on all sites and all conditions. This plant will not be a successful landscape choice unless these conditions are met. If these specific conditions (shade, acidic soil, etc.) are not available, substantial soil amendments and ongoing maintenance is required to maintain plant health. Increased maintenance on public facilities is a condition that landscape architects address through the thoughtful selection of materials that enhance aesthetics and the environment while minimizing the impact to ongoing maintenance requirements for public facilities. It may also be noted that this particular plant tends to be one of the more expensive plants available. This proposed legislation will have negative consequences to commercial nurseries, landscape contractors, landscape designers and landscape architects and the end user, the public.

It would be far more environmentally responsible and economically prudent if legislation outlawed the use of invasive species listed on the Connecticut Invasive Plant List prepared by the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.