



University of Connecticut
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Office of Dean and Director
Cooperative Extension System
Agricultural Experiment Station
Ratcliffe Hicks School
of Agriculture

March 14, 2012

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

I am pleased to support House Bill No. 5413, "An Act Concerning Invasive Plants". The Invasive Plants Council was created in 2003 to serve as an advisory council to the Environment Committee on invasive plant problems in Connecticut. The Council brings together state agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry representatives to address the complex problem of invasive plants in our state. Given the scientific nature of this issue, the utilization of a staff person dedicated to supporting the Council's activities has been a critical element to the Council's success. This individual serves as the point of contact for municipal officials, members of state government and Council members throughout the year. The coordinator conducts site visits, hosts training workshops, and prepares informational materials in addition to providing direct staff support to the Council. This individual has leveraged countless hours of volunteer time to assist in monitoring and eradication. The coordinator is jointly managed by DEEP and the University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources under a cooperative agreement.

The Council is very appreciative of legislative funding provided in fiscal year 2009 to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to support the coordinator for a two year period. The Department has continued to provide short term funding support for the coordinator following the termination of legislative funding for the position. House Bill No. 5413 will provide the funds necessary to continue the invasive plants coordinator position vital to the Council's success.

Sincerely,

Gregory Weidemann
Dean and Director
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

*An Equal Opportunity Employer
and Program Provider*

1376 Storrs Road Unit 4066
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-4066

Telephone: (860) 486-2917
Facsimile: (860) 486-5113

web: www.canr.uconn.edu