

**Labbadia, Bonnine**

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**From:** Ed Gilbert <ed\_gilbert@att.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2014 10:33 AM  
**To:** Program Review and Investigation  
**Subject:** Reference Bills 5379 and 5370

Good Morning

March 10, 2014

I am writing as a member of Friends of Harkness for many years and a long time volunteer in the gardens there. Over the years I have noticed a steady decline in the overall appearance of these gardens. This is in spite of a small dedicated staff of state workers some of which are part timers. They have other duties besides the work in the gardens. Our work one morning a week is with a small group of volunteers and we concentrate our efforts mostly with the gardens around the mansion and therefore some of the original gardens get minimal care and are overgrown with weeds and briars.

The buildings need paint on doorways and windows and maintenance on the masonry too.

I hope you will carefully consider 5369 and 5370.

Thank you

Dorothy Gilbert  
Member Friends of Harkness  
Waterford Conn.