



February 2nd, 2019

Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street, 11<sup>th</sup> floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representatives:

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC), formed in 2005, is a coalition of organizations and individuals throughout Ohio who have a mutual interest in Ohio's natural ecosystems and the effects of invasive plants and other organisms on their biological diversity. The Council participates in statewide efforts to address the threats of invasive species to Ohio's ecosystems and economy by providing leadership and promoting stewardship, education, research, and information exchange. Education and information exchange are part of OIPC's mission and we have a history of providing educational workshops, materials, and conferences, as well as research opportunities. In our efforts to address the threats of non-native, invasive plants, we also promote the use of native plants in Ohio.

I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Invasive Plants Council and our partners throughout the state in support of legislation to designate April as Ohio Native Plant Month. The proposed legislation states, "The month of April is designated as 'Ohio Native Plant Month' to increase public awareness of Ohio's native plants and the many benefits they provide to pollinators, Ohio's economy, and the health of Ohio's environment."

Passage of this bill is an important step in the growing nationwide effort to help native ecosystems and our declining pollinators. Native plants are good for Ohio, good for the environment, and good for business. This statewide effort to designate a month each year to acknowledge the value of native plants is one everyone can support. Please make Ohio one of the first states in the nation to officially recognize the importance of native plants.

We ask that you please support this important legislation for Ohio. We appreciate your consideration of this request and thank you in advance for helping to promote it.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Windus  
OIPC President  
Fredericktown, Ohio  
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