

Why endorse The Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration and Promotion Act (aka the “Botany Bill”, or H.R. 1054)?

Plants are central to the future of scientific discovery, human well-being, and the sustainable use and preservation of the nation’s resources. The botanical community in the United States plays a mission-critical role in researching, conserving, and sustainably managing our plant diversity and resources. Native plants and botanical expertise are required to address current and future grand challenges and issues in the United States, including climate change mitigation as well as land management and wildlife habitat conservation and restoration.

A group of organizations involved in conservation, botanical sciences, and native plant issues developed proposed federal legislation to promote these objectives. This legislation was drafted to support the hiring and placement of botanical scientists, create demand for native plant materials, and promote a preference for their use in federal restoration activities. This proposed legislation became a bill (H.R. 1054) on February 14, 2017 when it was introduced to the House of Representatives by Representatives Quigley (D-IL) and Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL). Currently, 62 organizations have endorsed this bill, and we are seeking additional co-sponsors in Congress. Your endorsement is important because it will improve our chances of securing additional congressional sponsorship.

As we build support for this bill, we ask your organization to consider adding its name as a supporter of the legislative proposal. More details are available at www.plantconservationalliance.org/resources. Please review this, contact me with questions or concerns, and consider whether this approach is something your organization can endorse. I should also note that some of the details or particulars in the actual bill may change as we move forward in the process, in which case all endorsing organizations will be contacted to ensure their continued support of the changes.

As of 2/21/17, the following organizations have signed their names to this legislative proposal:

Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance, Alabama Wildflower Society, American Public Gardens Association, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Association for Zoological Horticulture, BFI Native Seeds, BG-Base, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (US), Botanical Society of America, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, California Native Plant Society, Center for Plant Conservation, Chicago Botanic Garden, Colorado Native Plant Society, Delaware Nature Society, Denver Botanic Garden, Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN), Florida Native Plant Society, Florida Wildflower Foundation, Garden Club of America, Georgia Botanical Society, Georgia Native Plant Society, Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance, Houston Zoo, Illinois Native Plant Society, Institute for Applied Ecology, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Key West Botanical Garden Society, Inc., Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Living Habitats, Longwood Gardens, Missouri Botanic Garden, Missouri Native Plant Society, Mt Cuba Center, National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils, National Tropical Botanical Garden, National Wildlife Federation, Native Plant Conservation Campaign, Native Plant Society of New Mexico, Natural Areas Association, NatureServe, New England Wild Flower Society, Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden, Oklahoma Native Plant Society, Oregon Native Plant Society, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Prairie Legacy Inc., Rain Shadow Consulting, Salomon’s House, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Society for Ecological Restoration, The Atlanta Botanical Garden, The Cobb Land Trust, Inc., The Institute for Regional Conservation, The Morton Arboretum, The Polly Hill Arboretum, The Xerces Society, Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Virginia Native Plant Society, Washington Native Plant Society, Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden

And it is currently under consideration by numerous other organizations around the country.

Thank you for your consideration. Messages of support should be emailed to info@plantconservationalliance.org.