

Dear Mont. Co. Council members July 22, 2025

RE: Council Bill 26-25 – Vegetation-Invasive Plants – Native Plant Protection Act Position:
Favorable with Amendment

I agree to the amendments offered by Deborah Cohn Date: July 13, 2025.

Chuck Woolery,

Like her I have lived in the County nearly 40 years. For the last 11 as a MoCo Weed Warrior I've seen how effective citizens can be in saving trees from NNI vines - the second greatest cause of tree loss in MD. With English Ivy being one of the top three.

The sale of any NNIs should be outlawed for multiple environmental, economic, and health reasons. Japanese Barbary houses approximately 30X the number of Lyme disease carrying Ticks than other plants.

In many park areas NNI's covering the ground to overwhelming tree Canopies hide much of the litter that acts as a transmission belt along our roads and walkways acting as a mosquito nursery whenever and wherever a plastic bag, bottle or can collects water. With increasing temperatures and rain fall mosquito populations are thriving.

In areas we have removed most of the NNIs we also clear litter at the same time, often collected by the bag full. Steeper fines on littering could help with this problem. As well as increasing financial support the county's Weed Warrior program. It may be the best free fitness program that contributes to both personal, environmental, and public health that I've ever seen.

While people are responsible for their own mental health the county can reduce the stress NNIs have on every aspect of lives, given that **"Everything is connected, everything is interdependent, so everything is vulnerable.... And that's why this has to be a more than whole of government, a more than whole of nation [effort]. It really has to be a global effort...."** Jen Easterly, Director of CISA (Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency - our nation's newest federal agency established in 2018) Oct. 29, 2021, <https://www.c-span.org/video/?515706-1/protecting-critical-infrastructure> The word 'everything' is an autological word – defining itself.

FYI: We often forget that our environment is our fundamental vital life support infrastructure!

"There will be no Homeland Security until we realize that the entire planet is our homeland. Every sentient being in the world must feel secure." - John Perkins