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■ Cleveland Ct  
Rockville, MD 20850

July 22, 2025

Montgomery County Council  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

**Subject:** Bill 26-25, Vegetation - Invasive Plants

**Position:** For With Amendments

**References:**

Bill 26-25, Vegetation – Invasive Plants Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Glass Co-Sponsors: Council President Stewart and Councilmember Luedtke

[https://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=169&clip\\_id=18096&meta\\_id=198439](https://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=18096&meta_id=198439)

Dear Council President Stewart, Vice President Jawando, and Councilmembers:

I urge you to vote FOR this bill with the following amendment:

1) Prohibit the sale of ALL invasive plants as listed in “[Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas](#),” by Swearingin and Fulton, 2022  
(<https://www.invasive.org/midatlantic/fieldguide/index.cfm> ).

I am intimately familiar with the problem of invasive plants having spent countless hours removing them as a Montgomery Parks Weed Warrior Supervisor, a National Park Service Weed Warrior volunteer, and a field crew leader for Student Conservation Association under contract with the National Park Service.

Invasives are a problem for both our natural areas and for homeowners. For example, my neighbor refuses to control their invasive *Vinca minor* from spreading into my property which I try to keep invasive-free.

2) Native species should be defined as local ecotypes naturally occurring in Montgomery County. “Native” plants trucked in from New York, for example, have a different genetic makeup from Montgomery County local ecotypes. Even cultivars of native Montgomery County plants are not truly native – they would never be found in nature. Cultivars typically have trade-marked names such as the cultivar of Flowering Dogwood named “Cherokee Princess.” Such

plants have characteristics never found in nature and may cross breed with native plants. And, there is some question as to whether the fruit, nectar, and pollen of cultivars provide the same nutrition to native insects and animals as local ecotypes.

I would be happy to give each of you a tour of my property, The Bitternut Conservancy, to see the difference between my invasive-free lot which has over 200 different native plant species and adjacent properties where invasives have been allowed to run rampant.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kenneth Bawer

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