

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). 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 <https://botanybill.weebly.com/>. Please review this, contact me with questions or concerns, and consider whether this approach is something your organization can endorse.

Thank you for your consideration. Messages of support should be emailed to botanybillhr1054@gmail.com.