



The Loudoun Invasive Removal Alliance and the Fairfax Invasive Removal Alliance were recently created by \_\_\_ homeowners' associations (HOAs), \_\_\_ condo associations, and \_\_\_ civic associations, encompassing over \_\_\_ residents. We have come together to ask you to pass legislation to address the critical problem of invasive non-native plant species that are killing trees and destroying habitats in Virginia.

Community associations manage significant amounts of land that include woodlands, meadows and wetlands. All of these areas are being seriously impacted by invasive non-native species, as are the properties of the individual homeowners. Our open spaces and neighborhood parks are rapidly degrading. Our native trees, which are the powerhouses of the ecosystem, are the most visible victims. Smothered trees are starting to fall. New trees are unable to struggle through the invasives to replace them. Homeowners, community associations, and local governments are facing mounting costs that they can ill afford. The problem has reached crisis proportions in our counties and warrants state intervention.

Bills are being presented to you this session that can help stem this tide. We urge you to give each your careful consideration and support. While the environmental impact is enormous, the economic impact of uncontrolled invasive plants alone justifies investing now in preventative measures. As a community, we must employ every tool at our disposal, whether financial or other. Every month of delay only adds to the environmental degradation and expense.

We want Virginia to remain attractive to residents, tourists, and businesses. If we wish our children and grandchildren to inherit a thriving commonwealth, legislation must be passed sooner rather than later to support the comprehensive management of invasive plants in Virginia.

Sincerely,