



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1624		DATE: 2/2/2026
COMMITTEE: Conservation and Natural Resources		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2026 10:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in Support of this Bill.,



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 11:46 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Support of this Bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AUDREY E COORTS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2026 2:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

In my job working with Missouri's State Parks I deal with a lot of the invasive plants that this bill would help take care of. I have personally seen the effects they have on our natural landscapes and know how difficult they are to remove once they have taken root. I support HB 1624 and hope that the Conservation & Natural Resources Committee members will support it as well.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BILL MEES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 2:45 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

January 28, 2026

My name is Bill Mees, I live Columbia, Missouri.

I am sending this email communication to ask you to support HB 1624.

I am a member of Columbia Audubon Society (CAS) and am on the society's Nature Areas Committee. CAS owns three properties totaling over 200 acres. These properties are open to the public at no charge for hiking and the enjoyment of nature. CAS is working to remove non-native plant/bush/vine species and restore native Missouri habitats for the enjoyment and education of the public. These invasive species often out compete native Missouri species and can crowd out and smother our native species and spread nearly without limit. The restoration of these properties is incredibly difficult as a result of the growth of non-native species currently enumerated in HB 1624. Removing these non-native species is extremely labor intensive and often requires the use of herbicides. Paying labor and purchasing herbicides can become very expensive. Adding to the problem caused by these invasive species is the fact they usually recur. Thus, the time and costs controlling/removing them are usually ongoing. It is for these reasons that I request your committee and Missouri's State Legislature to support the passage HB 1624. Let's save Missouri for native Missouri species and stop the spread of these invaders.

Respectfully
 Bill Mees



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CARLA DODS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-716-3402	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PLATTE COUNTY LAND TRUST		TITLE: PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 901892			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64152
EMAIL: plattelandtrust@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 12:17 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Platte County Land Trust supports HB 1624 and requests the Conservation & Natural Resources Committee members support it as well. This bill prevents seeds of six invasive plants from being sold in Missouri. As a MO nonprofit organization and landowner, we spend \$1000's each year (not counting volunteer hours) to control Japanese honeysuckle, winter creeper, and sericea lespedeza on our property. Plus, we advise other landowners on the best control methods. We must control the sale of seeds in addition to plants to protect Missouri's wonderful natural areas and resources that contribute to the economic vitality of our state.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN NISWONGER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-956-5321	
REPRESENTING: SIERRA CLUB - MO CHAPTER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:00 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES CAVERLY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 5:01 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a Missouri botanist and being employed in the native stewardship industry statewide, I am in support of this legislation to restrict the sale of seeds of the plants listed. In doing a lot of native pollinator habitat and working with land owners - Sericea Lespedeza seed is often included in wildlife seed mixes sold in the state. As a result, this plant has become invasive statewide and uniquely difficult to eradicate. Thank you CGC



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL A. BURKHARDT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-560-7751	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MAGNIFICENT MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 12 HUNTLEIGH DOWNS, ST LOUIS, MO 63131			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63131
EMAIL: bethlehemvalley@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 3:39 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Dan Burkhardt, President and Co-Founder of Magnificent Missouri, a 501c3 formed to advocate for and protect Missouri's outdoors. I strongly support this bill that will go further to eliminate the spread of invasive plants that threaten our native plant ecosystem.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DENNIS EVANS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 12:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a landowner, I'm fighting the winter creeper on our farm in Newton co. I will have to spray the vines with an expensive herbicide and it will take many years to control. Missouri needs to ban the sales of seeds of these invasive plants to bypass the purchase of plants. Dennis Evans . Neosho,Mo



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DORIS SHERRICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 11:14 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I support HB 1624 to strengthen the new invasive plant bill that was signed into law in 2025 to stop the sale of seeds of sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), burning bush (*Euonymus alatus 'Compactus'*), Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), perilla mint (*Perilla frutescens*), and wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei* variety *Coloratus*) and am requesting that the Conservation & Natural Resources Committee Members support it also.

I see first-hand, on an ongoing basis, the impact of five of these plants as they have spread from neighboring properties to my 60 acres of prairie plantings and wooded areas. I spend much time and money throughout the growing season trying to eradicate and control their spread. HB 1624 is an important bill to prevent seeds from being sold that would continue to increase the spread of these highly invasive plants.

Thanks for considering my request.

Doris Sherrick
 10807 E. 205th St.
 Peculiar, Mo 64078
 816-716-9159



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JANE HASLAG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 4:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a landowner, I support this legislation banning seeds of these invasive species. I have spent many hours removing Bradford pear, wintercreeper & burning bush from our property. We need to do everything we can to stop these aggressive spreaders. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 10:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KYNA IMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-651-1185	
REPRESENTING: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1483			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDEN MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 4:10 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Representative Sassman, I am writing to share my support for HB 1624 and request that the Conservation & Natural Resources Committee members support it as well. I live near a park that has been completely inundated and harmed by one of the invasive species that would be banned by the bill. It is a small woodland park with short trails, and the ground in it has become densely covered with thick, deep mats of euonymus which climbs up and kills existing trees, and prevents or chokes out new trees trying to come up. Volunteers fight it year after year, but once these plants are established they are extremely difficult to eradicate. Trying to save our park's forest may take perpetual effort at this point. Please support this bill and help save other neighborhood parks (or our national forests) from this same fate!



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY CULLER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-586-0747
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI STREAM TEAM WATERSHED COALITION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS:		
CITY: SHELBYVILLE	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63469
EMAIL: mary@streamteamsunited.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 10:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Dear members of the House Conservation and Natural Resources Committee. Please support HB1624 to prevent the sale of seeds of the six invasive plants specified in the bill. Invasive plant species, especially the six species found in HB1624, are damaging to Missouri properties and out compete native Missouri species. Missourians spend thousands of hours each year to remove these invasive species from both private and public properties. Missouri Stream Team volunteers of our organization alone spend thousands of hours removing these invasive species from Missouri's landscape. Please support HB1624 to help reduce these undesirable plants in the state of Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY SCHANTZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 2:27 PM
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Please give your thoughtful attention to HB 1624, introduced by Rep. Sassmann, and vote to move the bill out of committee.

I am not a scientist, nor do I have any environmental credentials. I am a Missouri homeowner who would like to see my yard, neighborhood and community benefit from the elimination of invasive non-natives. I unknowingly allowed invasive non-natives to take over much of my yard. Then, when I started paying attention, I realized that my yard was absent of almost all native species because they had been squeezed out by invasives. Not having natives in my yard meant that butterflies, bees and birds did not come around.

I began replacing invasive non-natives with natives a few years ago and already I see an increase in the birds, bees, butterflies, and moths using the natives in my yard helping to restore the balance of nature.

Thank you,
Mary Schantz



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 10:42 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: PAT KELLY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-726-4747	
REPRESENTING: MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO STL		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 11911 DORSETT RD.			
CITY: MARYLAND HEIHGTS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63043
EMAIL: pkelly@stlmuni.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 11:55 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Municipal League of Metro STL supports HB 1624. It is vital that we protect our Missouri natural resources and vegetation from non-native invasive plants. HB 1624 will help prevent the introduction of invasive seeds from entering the state.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD SHEETS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-9134	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE		TITLE: ADVOCACY ADVISOR	
ADDRESS: 1727 SOUTHRIDGE DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: rsheets@mocities.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2026 2:26 PM	

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HB 1624 corrects a situation that was missed in legislation that was Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed, and signed into law by the Governor, last year (2025)



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD THOM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SETH BURLEAW		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2026 9:21 PM
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As an individual who has previously worked as a steward for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, I have personally seen how plants such as Sericea Lespedeza and Japanese Honeysuckle can take over land within Missouri. Typically, in areas with these plants there is significantly less native vegetation because native species are outcompeted for resources. In an effort to bring back the native vegetation I have spent hundreds of hours trying to remove these invasive species. I believe that seeds of these non-native species should not be sold or transported in Missouri because the growth of these plants pose a threat to Missouri's natural biodiversity.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: SHANE STATEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SWALLOW TAIL, LLC; SWALLOW TAIL D/B, INC; REMEMBRANCE FOREST		TITLE: SENIOR RESTORATION MANAGER
ADDRESS: 13610 BARRETT OFFICE DRIVE, SUITE 112		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63021
EMAIL: sstaten@swallowtailenvironmental.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 2:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am the Senior Restoration Manager for Swallowtail, a private small business that provides habitat restoration services to companies, municipalities, and individuals to help them meet their regulatory compliance obligations. We have staff in St. Louis, Chillicothe, and Kansas City that work together to restore prairies, wetlands, and forests across the state.

Invasive plant species are a major expense for us and for all land managers. All of the species included in HB 1624 present a clear and present danger to the economic and ecologic health of our great state. While they are all a threat, sericea lespedeza is a particularly virulent invasive species that imperils our great prairie heritage and our important working lands.

We support HB 1624 and humbly request that the Conservation & Natural Resource Committee members support it as well.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATTLEMEN's ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN HENDERSON MOORE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-268-6924	
REPRESENTING: CITY OF COLUMBIA		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 631 BOLIVAR ST SUITE 201			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: sbhenderson@polsinelli.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:50 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TIM COLLINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2026 4:37 PM
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One of the things that makes Missouri unique within the central US, is its incredibly unique geography, flora, and fauna. If invasive plants are allowed to continue infiltrating these unique environments, the \$12B outdoor recreation economy will most certainly take a hit over time. Fewer deer and other hunted species will leave future generations with a bland and lifeless outdoors in the Show-Me-State. With the passage of this bill, you can establish a wonderful future for the state and its residents.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TYLER SCHWARTZE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-2322	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CONSERVATION FEDERATION OF MISSOURI		TITLE: EX DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 728 W. MAIN ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1624		DATE: 2/2/2026	
COMMITTEE: Conservation and Natural Resources			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: ARMORVINE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1624		DATE: 2/2/2026	
COMMITTEE: Conservation and Natural Resources			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2026 1:11 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I oppose HB 1624 because it takes a real environmental concern and turns it into government micromanagement of private landowners, small growers, and seed sellers.

Missourians do not need the state inserting itself into every greenhouse, nursery, farm stand, and seed exchange with expanded affidavits, mandatory certifications, uncompensated destruction of private property, and escalating permit requirements.

This bill moves well beyond protecting agriculture and into command-and-control regulation of lawful private activity.

HB 1624 empowers the state entomologist to quarantine, seize, and destroy nursery stock without compensation, even when the plants are otherwise lawfully owned.

That is a serious intrusion into private property rights, especially for small operators who depend on narrow margins and seasonal inventory.

Government should not be in the business of destroying private property first and asking questions later.

The bill also forces growers and seed sellers to sign affidavits policing future plant bans years in advance, effectively turning private citizens into enforcement agents for evolving regulatory lists.

That kind of forward-looking prohibition is confusing, burdensome, and unfair—particularly to small farms, hobby growers, and local seed producers who lack legal staff to track constant rule changes.

Protecting Missouri’s environment does not require treating landowners and farmers as suspects.

It requires targeted, evidence-based enforcement against actual harm—not blanket paperwork, penalties, and uncompensated losses imposed on people minding their own business.

For these reasons, HB 1624 should not advance.