

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
John W. Peterson, *Chairman*
Gerald O. "Jerry" Peters, Jr., *Vice Chairman*
Christopher E. "Chris" Koerner, *Treasurer*
Monica A. Billger, *Secretary*
Adria C. Bordas, *Extension*

Laura Grape, *Executive Director*



Phone: 703-324-1460
Fax: 703-324-1421
E-mail: conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov
Website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

12055 Government Center Parkway • Suite 905 • Fairfax, VA 22035-5512

26 JAN 2022

The Honorable R. Lee Ware, Jr.
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture Chesapeake and Natural Resources
House of Delegates District 65
General Assembly Pocahontas Building, Room E308
P.O. Box 406
Richmond, VA 23218

Email: delRWare@house.virginia.gov

Dear Chairman Ware,

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) promotes sustainable urban and suburban activities and stewardship to conserve our soil, water, air, plants, and animal resources in Fairfax County. These are vital components of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We achieve this through effective leadership, technical assistance, and outreach programs in partnership with government, industry, non-profit organizations, and the public.

Invasive plants wreak havoc in many landscapes, causing problems for all Virginians, regardless of their place of residence across the Commonwealth. Biologists studying invasive species across the United States estimate they cause \$120 billion in annual economic losses. The list of damages includes lost crops, devastated timberlands, diseased plants, and expensive management and removal costs. Some invasive species can be poisonous to livestock and cause human illnesses. In Virginia alone, the Department of Conservation and Recreation estimates that costs associated with invasive plants and animals may reach \$1 billion annually.

The Virginia Association of Conservation Districts adopted a policy in December 2021 to support a study of invasive plant species in Virginia and subsequently offer recommendations to reduce or eliminate the sale of invasive plants in the commonwealth and instead promote the sale of native plants.

Consistent with that policy, the NVSWCD endorses the following bills that have been introduced in the General Assembly, and referred to the House of Delegates Committee on Agriculture Chesapeake and Natural Resources: HB311 - Delegate Krizek, HB314 - Delegate Krizek, HB491 - Delegate Bulova.

We believe these three bills represent significant positive steps forward and deserve to become law. We urge the House of Delegates and the Senate to promptly pass these bills and send them to the Governor for his approval.

-Providing Conservation Leadership in Fairfax County, since 1945-



Yours in conservation,



John W. Peterson, Chairman
Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors
9304 Lundy Court
Burke, VA 22015-3431
Tel. 703-455-4387, Cell. 703-505-1782. Fax. 703-455-6888. Email. jwpeterson083@gmail.com.

Cc. Peters, Koerner, Billger, Bordas, Grape, Woode, Cameron. Good Gagnon, Lamb, NVSWCD; Graves, Davis, Boring, Wells, Meeks, Rash, Frantz, Tyree, VASWCD, the 28 GA Members whose districts receive services from the NVSWCD.

