

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.154

Rep. Anthony offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States  
2   to enact legislation that requires any person or business selling  
3   plants online to alert customers if a plant is considered invasive  
4   and illegal to possess in a state.

5       Whereas, Invasive plants, whether aquatic or terrestrial,  
6   cause environmental and economic harm in Michigan and throughout  
7   the country. Once introduced, aquatic invasive plants proliferate  
8   in our waters, impacting boating, swimming, fishing, and all the  
9   businesses that support these activities. Other invasive plants  
10   spread across the land, replacing more valuable native plants,  
11   often creating impenetrable thickets, and degrading wildlife  
12   habitat, with impacts on hunting, tourism, agriculture, and  
13   birding. Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent each year to

1 control invasive plants nationwide, and there are potentially  
2 billions of dollars in overall impacts; and

3 Whereas, Invasive plants often arrive in Michigan and other  
4 states by shipment from online sales. Many invasive plants are  
5 marketed and sold as ornamental or aquarium species. Consumers  
6 purchasing plants online are generally unaware if a plant is  
7 considered invasive by their state and assume that if it is being  
8 sold online it is permissible to possess; and

9 Whereas, Increased consumer awareness would help prevent the  
10 purchase of invasive plants. Most people would not knowingly  
11 purchase a plant or release a plant into the environment if they  
12 were aware that the plant is invasive and the damage that it could  
13 cause. Proper awareness at the point of sale would make a  
14 tremendous difference in the fight against invasive plants; and

15 Whereas, States are limited in their ability to enforce  
16 requirements on people and businesses selling plants online but  
17 operating out of state. Online invasive plant sales are a national  
18 problem related to interstate commerce but with significant local  
19 impacts. It is imperative that Congress address this issue; now,  
20 therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize  
22 the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that  
23 requires any person or business selling plants online to alert  
24 customers if a plant is considered invasive and illegal to possess  
25 in a state; and be it further

26 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
27 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
28 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan  
29 congressional delegation.