

Governor Chris Christie
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

I would like to commend the impressive work of the New Jersey Invasive Species Council. They have been working since 2001 to develop a strategic plan to solve a global dilemma that causes an estimated \$290 million per year damage to New Jersey agriculture and untold harm to our natural areas by altering forest structure and causing local extinction of our precious native plant heritage. Invasive species are considered the greatest threat to biodiversity after outright habitat destruction.

The New Jersey Invasive Species Council defines an invasive species as any plant or animal that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. The Council released its report, New Jersey Strategic Management Plan for Invasive Species, in January 2010 pursuant to Executive Order #97. We would like to appeal to you to fully implement the plan, including the release of an **official list of invasive species** that would be prohibited for sale in New Jersey.

States throughout the Northeast, including Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire have instituted prohibitions on the sale of invasive species. New Jersey has failed to address this issue thus far, but we are hopeful that action will be taken to the benefit of our natural resources and biodiversity..

Thank you for your attention to this appeal.

Sincerely,

(Printed Name of Private Individual or Organization)

Cc: Douglas H. Fisher, Secretary, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625
Bob Martin, Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, P.O. Box 402,
Trenton, NJ 08625