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Penn State  
Herbarium

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Sarah Chamberlain, Curator  
Penn State (PAC) Herbarium  
208 Mueller Lab  
University Park, PA 16802  
814.865.6201

December 23, 2017

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Penn State (PAC) Herbarium supports DCNR's proposed regulatory update of the Plant Protection List. The Plant Protection List has not been updated for over 20 years and thus, in its present state, does not reflect current research and understanding of Pennsylvania's plant biodiversity. It is imperative that this list reflects the best available science so that plant conservation and the permit process will be more effective and efficient and these valuable natural resources of the Commonwealth will be fully protected.

The proposed changes are not meant to propose additional regulations, but to fine-tune existing regulations and are supported by extensive scientific documentation and review by botanical experts via the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) Vascular Technical Plant Committee (VPTC) and the Rare Plant Forum. These changes will help DCNR target protection toward the most vulnerable plant species, while enabling more accurate permit review. Updating the Plant Protection List will also bring DCNR into compliance with their legal mandate to update the list on a regular basis.

The PAC Herbarium fully supports the proposed changes and urges their adoption so that plant biodiversity in the Commonwealth can be effectively managed and protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Sarah Chamberlain".

Sarah Chamberlain, Curator