

February 20, 2012

Caryn Rickel
13 Edgehill Terr.,
Seymour, CT 06483

Dear Legislators of the Environment Committee,

TESTIMONY

I am writing today to * strongly support the passing of :

H. B. No. 5122 (Raised) AN ACT REGULATING THE GROWTH
AND SALE OF GOLDEN BAMBOO. *

My neighbor planted 6 tiny running bamboo plants directly on our shared property line in 1997. Today this has grown to a 35 feet tall invasive bamboo infestation that has invaded all four adjoining properties approx. 90 feet in width. I have installed an expensive bluestone patio, and a backhoe had to be brought in first to remove all the bamboo rhizomes. A steel sheathing was installed to protect the patio. The bamboo has reinvaded and broke through. Now it has also invaded their side neighbor and is now invading my rental property next door in a direct path for the septic.

This is a full 90 feet linear of property line under invasion by mature rhizomes. These rhizomes have the tensile strength of steel, and are very destructive. Underground it is a full takeover deep with rhizomes. It invades underground approx. 20 feet per year and is rapid from all directions. This has killed all the plants and landscape. The patio is now reinvaded. We have spent a season gutting my patio 2 feet deep to remove rhizomes to try to save it. (using reciprocating saw and pick ax, very hard work)

My rental property next door is now also under invasion , and this is heading directly for the septic system. The neighbor is partying behind the bamboo and harasses me. They think this is a big joke, as they know there is no law. This invasive trespasses underground first in late summer, and then in May and June new bamboo trees emerge which grow almost 2 feet per day. They destroy everything in their path.

I have totally lost my enjoyment and free use of my land. I cannot believe for the past 30 years I created beautiful gardens, and my joy in life of gardening has been robbed from me.

My most valuable asset my land cannot even be sold. It is under invasion still today, and my neighbor laughs as she knows there is no law.

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The bamboo has grown under a new \$2,500. asphalt driveway and lifted it up and cracked it. The bamboo has invaded under a sidewalk this past summer, and cracked it. The bamboo has made it to the house foundation and under the central a/c at my rental property. It is visibly re-sprouting six feet from my gazebo. My land is 1/3 invaded on the property lines now, on two properties I own side by side.

My neighbor continues to think this is my problem. We cannot physically hold this grove back, as it is a mature grove and the invasion of rhizomes annually is relentless. This species of invasive running bamboo grows more aggressive each successive year. It becomes unbearable in exponential spread underground each year.

Laws are rapidly being passed now all through New York as damage reports come in. People online are sharing information, and they are sending me damage photos. This Phyllostachys running bamboo is highly destructive and aggressive. Mowing does not stop it. I have pictures of it going right up through pool liners. It will break up a house foundation. The longer it invades the harder it is to eradicate. Once it gets under structures it becomes impossible to contain.

When I first read online what this plant was I was in disbelief. The Hiroshima bomb did not kill Phyllostachys , in fact it flourished just three days later. One cannot plant this freely in Tokyo as it knows no property lines. One cannot even ship it to Hawaii. In Australia plants sold must bear a sticker for containers only. The rhizomes are hazardous waste and must be burned.

This is a highly unsuitable plant for a property line or urban planting as it will escape and destroy adjoining properties.

H.B.No.5122 AN ACT REGULATING THE GROWTH AND SALE OF GOLDEN

BAMBOO : would serve to create an affirmative duty for those growing this destructive running bamboo to not engage in this conduct that would cause damage to adjoining property.

Very truly yours,
Caryn Rickel
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