

February 18, 2012

If a dog broke through his leash and attacked and injured a neighbor, would the dog's owner not be held responsible? We strongly support INVASIVE BAMBOO HOUSE BILL NO. 5122 and desire that laws be passed making owners of land on which bamboo is growing, responsible for any damage incurred on neighboring properties due to the impact of bamboo. Septic systems, driveways, house foundations, gardens, and lawns are being seriously damaged by bamboo planted on nearby properties. Properties near the groves are becoming devalued and have become difficult to sell due to the fear of potential damage caused by running bamboo. It has been proven that bamboo barriers typically fail or are installed far too late to prevent unwanted invasion. In front of our home, an underground water pipe was pierced by the bamboo grove on our neighbors' property causing cracking in the asphalt road and a fountain of water continually released until repaired by the water company. Electricity is drawn to bamboo and, as in the case in our neighborhood, it can be seen growing on and about power lines.

The grove next door to our property, merely feet away, is giant timber bamboo (although classified as a grass), *phyllostachys aureosulcata*; yellow groove-cold hardy. It is the most aggressive invasive bamboo. It was planted approximately 12 years ago, but the barrier was only installed in the summer of 2011. It grows taller and more aggressive each successive year.

Not long ago we had to replace our septic system at the approximate cost of \$40,000, in order to fully comply with the requirements of our town. You can imagine the fear we feel knowing that underground rhizomes are creeping toward it each season. We worry that our largest investment, our home, will turn out to be our biggest liability through no fault of our own.

It is our fervent hope that CT House Bill No. 5122 will pass, making it unlawful for a person planting bamboo to allow it to spread onto another's property.

Very truly yours,

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