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

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

I support the passage of this bill. I became aware of the danger of invasive bamboo after reading the Fivemile River Watershed Evaluation (prepared by Milone & MacBroom, Inc. 2010). This study was commissioned by the Town of New Canaan in an effort to address long-standing flood issues. Imbedded in the report was the following paragraph:

“An extensive stand of bamboo was observed along the channel near Kiwanis Park. This invasive species is extremely detrimental to the habitat of the area and likely increases flood water depths in the area near and upstream of the stand. This stand of non-native material should be removed and disposed of properly (so as not to spread to the disposal location).”

My property abuts the River, and the bamboo stand in question is directly across the River (a few feet wide at that point) from my property. I bought the property over 20 years ago, and the bamboo was not there then. I don't remember when it first appeared, but it has grown alarmingly, extending hundreds of feet in width and towering over 30 feet in height. When I noticed it arching over and straddling the River with the tops resting on my property, I was concerned it would jump the river and start invading my side. It turns out the roots cannot spread under the water, but it is unclear whether it can find another way to invade my yard.

The point is, if a plant is invasive and “extremely detrimental,” it stands to reason its sale and harmful spread should be controlled by regulation. I urge you to do so.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Kaaren Walker

