

February 20, 2012

Re: House Bill no. 5122 Invasive Bamboo

Dear Legislators:

I strongly support the House Bill no. 5122 regulating the Invasive Bamboo. The 'running' and growth of this damaging weed needs to be seen to be believed in the way in which it damages, kills and overpowers everything in its path. The bamboo grows 20 to 30 feet tall and lives year round. Stalks can grow to 2" in diameter and are extremely hardy. It sheds the leaves constantly creating more nuisance and work. In trying to keep them from damaging the roof shingles of my garage I tried to cut them down. The bamboo leaves have a substance that gave me a really bad rash on my arms, thighs and legs sustaining the rash, itch and welts for almost an hour.

People who plant this bamboo in their yards should be responsible to contain them in their yards and should also be responsible for all of the damages that their bamboo causes to neighbors yards and properties. In numerous occasions, I told my neighbors that I do not want it in my yard. But to no avail.

I used to have a yard which was very pleasant with beautiful gardens, which I have cultivated through the years. I have had plants which were gifts from friends that I have carried with me from house to house for the last 30 years that now must die when my yard is dug up for the removal of the root system. I no longer have a pretty yard because it has been consumed by the bamboo. I have poured so much Round Up that a large portion of my yard can not grow grass any longer. This network of roots lie under the top soil at approximately 5 to 6 inches they grow horizontally and are in my entire yard. Every year they grow more and stronger and sprout more stalks. Last year in the spring just one morning I cut down 78 of them which had grown 1 to 3 ft. overnight.

Last summer, I called 32 different landscaping companies. No one wanted to 'go there' as many said. They would not even know how to eradicate it, others said. Only 4 landscapers came to my house and only 2 took the time and made the effort to give me written estimates for the cost of removal, chemically treating, encasing my entire yard and re seeding and planting new perennials. They ranged from 18 to 22 thousand dollars.

It is all about living in a community, where what one does impacts the other. If something from my property impacts yours in a negative way, I should take measures to correct it immediately.

I therefore strongly and fervently hope that this Bill 5122 will pass.

It is, after all, about living in a community, about living in harmony!

Sincerely,

Enilda Rosas

45 Elmwood Road

New Haven Ct 06515

