

March 15, 2013

Testimony Regarding Submitted Bill 1016

I support Submitted Bill 1016. Running bamboo (*Phyllostachys* spp.) should be contained if planted as an ornamental. Removal and damages to others' property should be the responsibility of the person(s) who planted the bamboo. This removal/expense may take several years to accomplish.

I live at 189 Killingworth Road, also known as Route 81, in Higganum in an historic home built by Ebenezer Mudge in 1744, known as the Mudge-Hull House. My husband and I purchased the house in 1986 and have lived here since August 1986. Our lot size is .50 acre.



The Mudge-Hull House,
c. 1744
owned by Gail and
Daniel Reynolds
Higganum, CT



Approximately ten to twelve years ago, the owner of the house at 183 Killingworth Road, immediately behind our lot, planted running bamboo along the western boundary of my property. It has spread greatly since the initial planting.

Each spring, through summer, and into fall, the bamboo sprouts (culms) break ground further and further away from the initial planting site. I knock these down and my husband mows over them. This does not prevent the running bamboo from spreading, however. It has spread greatly on my neighbor's property.

In 2012, based on the sprouting pattern of the bamboo, I became very concerned that the bamboo would infiltrate and clog my septic tank. The culms arose very near to the walk to my house as well, in 2012. I fear that without action that the bamboo will soon reach my fieldstone house foundation and damage my home. My neighbor has no interest in containing or removing the bamboo. In addition to running bamboo, she has planted many other state-listed invasives (e.g., goutweed, oriental honeysuckle, oriental wisteria, and garlic mustard) and let them grow out of control.



As a result of my concerns, in 2012 I began to dig up the bamboo roots (rhizomes) on my property. I dug up rhizomes all summer and well into the fall. Placement of our own trees, two butternuts and a pear tree compounded the difficulty because the roots of our trees became entangled with the bamboo rhizomes and I did not wish to injure our trees. I then purchased a two-foot hard plastic underground barrier and a very shape spade. I began to dig a two-foot trench along the boundary and insert the barrier. The barrier will not prevent the bamboo from growing but it will keep the rhizomes from my property.

Photos taken by Gail Kalison Reynolds



Bamboo rhizomes dug up, ready for burning



Boundary line marked for barrier



Continuation of boundary line marking



Barrier inserted into dug trench

Although I am in my mid-50s, I am semi-retired and in good health so I can perform this activity. There is no guarantee that the barrier will be effective.

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