

March 14, 2013

Testimony to Environment Committee, S.B 1016 regarding Running Bamboo.

My name is Enilda Rosas, and I live at 45 Elmwood Rd , New Haven Ct 06515.

I totally support the bill S. B. 1016 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" or more 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 and itch and welts for almost an hour.

I am asking that the bill include that the person who plants this bamboo in their yards should be responsible to contain them in their yards and should also be responsible and pay for all of the damages that their bamboo causes to neighbor's yards and properties and pays for the removal and damages each year as each year the bamboo grows stronger than the previous year. Damages are continual each year.

Next thing you know, there exists a bamboo jungle, reminiscing to the ones in the tropics, in your back yard. Very difficult to eradicate!

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 cannot 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. And my yard is approximately 50 X 24 ft.

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 will pass.

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

Sincerely,

Enilda Rosas