



## State of Connecticut

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**The Environment Committee Public Hearing  
Friday, March 15, 2013  
Testimony in Support of,  
SB 1016- An Act Regulating The Planting And Sale Of Running Bamboo**

**Honored Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Environment Committee**

I would like to take the Opportunity to thank you for raising Senate Bill 1016 and offer this testimony in favor of this bill.

It has become abundantly clear in the last few years that Connecticut has come under attack from golden bamboo. The problems posed by the spread of this plant throughout the state has grown to become a problem and has recently been brought to my attention through my constituents who are in the process of battling this invasive species. While it is certainly the right of the individual to plant and cultivate, on their own property, any plant that they deem fit, it is also imperative that these plants are contained to the planter's property. Problems arise when one person plants bamboo and then negligently allows that bamboo to encroach upon their neighbors land. Various pictures and testimony we have seen make it clear that the plants grow quickly and must be maintained.

This bill would make it unlawful to cultivate any bamboo plants within 100 feet of a property line or a public right of way. Passing this bill is simply the right thing to do to prevent many more people from needlessly spending their money to clean up the mistakes made by neighbors who planted bamboo too close to their neighbor's property. The task of removal is made all the more difficult by the very nature of the plant itself. Golden bamboo has an extensive root system that is very difficult to eradicate. The plant does not always respond favorably to topical pesticide treatments and often requires tedious removal by hand. Besides the obvious cost to the landowner, their whole yard is now aesthetically ruined.

For all of these reasons and more: the sale, distribution and cultivation of bamboo should and needs to be regulated in the state of Connecticut in order to prevent any further spread of the bamboo and the numerous problems that will arise soon after.