

Dear Environment Committee:

March 14, 2013

S.B.1016

AN ACT REGULATING THE PLANTING AND SALE OF RUNNING BAMBOO

My name is Theresa Groff and I reside in Preston, CT.

The proposed SB 1016 must specify the total removal of surface and sub- surface bamboo plant matter each year at no cost to the victims of bamboo invasion on a continuous basis. I urge the committee to impose full and continuing liability to the person or persons growing damaging *Phyllostachys* bamboo on his or her property.

For the last four months I have identified and photographed 94 invasions of *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* bamboo within a 26-mile radius of my residence. I'm sure there are more sites I haven't found. The plant sends up new shoots in spring and summer growing 2 feet per day and requires cutting with a saw. Each plant, called a culm grows to a diameter of 3 ½ inches and as tall as 45 feet to entangle utility lines. At maturity, the roots spread as much as 20 feet per year causing continual damage to surrounding property. This plant survives to -15 degrees and knows no boundaries.

Culms are capable of pushing through plastic barriers, concrete side walks and through 6" thick asphalt (photos of failed barriers have been included).

*Phyllostachys* bamboo is the gift that keeps on giving!

Converting noise pollution to awful plant invasions, diminishing highway sight lines and potentially causing accidents is just plain wrong (the Merritt Parkway and Route 2 in Colchester).

*Phyllostachys* occludes culverts causing flooding on my street. The wet, top heavy culms lean over our rural road limiting travel to a single lane. This process causes the state police to notify Preston road crews and they

spend hours cutting back the bamboo from the road. This happens several times a year.

Since rhizomes so quickly become new invasions they should be incinerated by statute after being removed from the ground. Adding the rhizomes plant matter to community compost piles just compounds the problem of bamboo spread.

Harsh financial penalties are necessary to send a message that the Phyllostachys family of bamboo is no longer welcome here and will not be tolerated.

I have included photos and a computer disc with my testimony.

Thank you for your extensive work on this proposed bill, SB 1016

Sincerely,  
Theresa Groff  
Preston, CT