

James & Marissa Vallillo
5 Hampton Street
Stonington, CT 06378

February 18, 2014
Environment Committee LOB
300 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Sir or Madam:

This testimony is in reference **S.B. 72 AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR THE GROWING OF RUNNING BAMBOO**. We are residents of a small beach community in the Lords Point Association in Stonington CT. We recently purchased a small plot of land in 2009. We have since built a brand new structure on this property which serves as a vacation home for our family. Unfortunately we have a neighbor (57 Boulder Avenue) who is in a legal battle with an abutting neighbor and the previous owner of our property. The owner of 57 Boulder Avenue has since planted *Phyllostachys bisetii* bamboo to spite the abutting properties approximately in 2005/2006. The bamboo was planted right on our property line with an insufficient barrier. The bamboo has since spread into our property and we have visible rhizomes in the yard with bamboo shoots all over the property and it is encroaching our deck, foundation and driveway.

We fear for the future damage that will arise based on what we have seen to date. We are concerned that the neighbor we are dealing with will be unsympathetic to any problems that the spread of the bamboo will cause. We feel that without legal rights our property will be damaged without any recourse.

We need a bill that will declare running bamboo a nuisance with a 40 foot setback on existing bamboo (no bamboo buffer zone where bamboo cannot exist-including rhizomes). This bill will force a person and/or property owner who currently has bamboo on their property to be responsible for the care and containment of this very invasive plant.

The bamboo property owner needs to be responsible for any damages financially and functionally, that arise to neighboring properties.. **It is only fair and just to protect the rights of someone's property. It seems that making sure those rights are protected is what this bill will make happen. I was unaware of the damage that bamboo can cause when we purchased this property in 2009 and fear that my property value and those of people in a similar spot as I am in will have no recourse. What is even scarier is that it seems in a lot of these instances bamboo is used as a weapon against a neighbor and that makes it even more important that the bill is done correctly. I have also attached a PDF of our situation with pictures so you can see how close the bamboo is to our property.**

We sincerely ask for your consideration on this amendment. We thank you in advance for taking action against this invasive plant.

Sincerely,
James & Marissa Vallillo
(Property owners of 5 Hampton Street Stonington CT)