

The Environment Committee:

While I applaud the intent of the new bill, it does not go far enough. We must have the bill amended to include:

Declare running bamboo a nuisance with a 40 foot setback on existing bamboo.

Although I am unable to attend the meeting in person, as I work, however I want to make sure you are aware of the incredible problems related to running bamboo. This type of bamboo is being planted in many parts of the state by people who have no idea how invasive this is. This type of bamboo will continue to grow underground and spread out, over time, to literally miles away. This bamboo will break through cement walls, driveways, pools, septic systems, and there is no known poison to kill it. The damage from this stuff is immense. Home values are seriously affected if this cannot be removed.

In my case, my next door neighbor planted it on the property line about 5 years ago. Since then it has taken root, grown from a couple of small plants to a grove over 40 feet long and has started to invade our side. In order to get rid of it, the entire area, including our driveways must be dug down about two feet and completely hauled away. Our case is even more interesting, as the area where the bamboo was planted is a watershed area that carries back to the back of our property, where WE BORDER ON THE PAUGUSSETT STATE FOREST. This means that the loose rhizomes (these invasive roots) are able to be carried back and infest the state forest as well.

What we need from you, is to help have it declared that running bamboo as a NUISANCE with at least a 40 foot setback from property lines and HAVE THAT APPLY TO EXISTING infestations. It is criminal that a neighbor can plant this horrible stuff that not only invades innocent, hard-working people's home asset, but will expand past the neighbor's property lines and infest other neighbor's homes as well.

Think about that. Would you like it if your neighbor planted this incredibly invasive growth next to your home, to make it impossible to sell?

If there was ever a case for a State government to help their constituents, this is it. Please take action and thank you.

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