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February 17, 2014

S.B. 72 AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR THE GROWING OF RUNNING BAMBOO

I am writing from Old Saybrook, Connecticut, regarding a serious concern with invasive running bamboo.

I live on Main Street in a historical home built in 1697, and the yellow groove running bamboo that my neighbors have planted along the property line is beginning to spread to my property. Over the past three years, I have watched the plant grow and spread rapidly --- and it will soon result in significant damages to my property. The foundation of my house, blue stone patio, driveway, and lawn are all in danger, which concerns me a great deal. I also worry about the state of my home -- a historical property -- and what will happen when the bamboo reaches the house, which won't be long. Additionally, our properties are adjacent to marsh lands, to which the bamboo will pose a huge threat.

I've tried to work cooperatively with my neighbors and explain my concerns, but they don't understand the problem, and they don't want to remove the bamboo. It is planted directly on the property line, and a barrier will not contain it.

At this point, the existing bill effective Oct 1, 2013, does not help me. My only option is to sue my neighbors, which will be expensive and time consuming, and will require that I allow the bamboo to grow -- and cause damage to my property -- until the legal process is completed (which will take years). There will be irreversible damages to my property, and potentially the adjacent marsh lands, if I wait for a law suit to go through.

I'm very pleased to hear that the state is taking notice of the bamboo problem, and I support the intent of S.B. 72 with the addition of a Buffer Zone as described below.

That said, the bill will not protect homeowners and properties in its current form. In order to protect our properties and homes, we need to add language that will declare running bamboo a nuisance with a 40 foot setback on existing bamboo. The 40 foot setback is a crucial part of this bill that will allow me, and other homeowners to protect our properties. (This would be a no bamboo buffer zone where bamboo cannot exist - including rhizomes.) In the current form, the proposed bill will not help my situation until the bamboo has grown over the property line. This does not make sense for towns, home owners, or anyone who knows how invasively running bamboo grows.

We need to work collaboratively together, and we need to do everything we can now. We need a 40 foot, no bamboo buffer zone on existing bamboo to stop the spread and damages.

Best regards,
Jillian Murphy