

**REGARDING: S.B. 72 AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR THE GROWING AND/OR KEEPING EXISTING RUNNING BAMBOO.**

I am writing to express my support of the new bill #72. I want to **declare running bamboo a nuisance and request a no bamboo zone with a 40 foot setback on existing in-place bamboo**. I am unable to attend the hearing Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 but would like my written testimony to support the proposed bill.

The Public Act No.13-82 only addresses regulating planting running bamboo after Oct 1, 2013. There are no provisions for in-place, existing bamboo. The originator of the running bamboo must be held accountable for the destruction public and neighboring property.

The reason eliminating the running bamboo at its source is critical is because the root system or rhizomes run 2' deep in a thick woven crisscross network that reach out 20', 360 degrees. There are no containment structures that work (metal, concrete, plastic...). There are no chemicals that will kill running bamboo because the stalks/culms have a membrane every 12" that prevent "Round Up" type material from spreading. The root system also has the same construction. If this isn't enough, the plant also secretes an enzyme that kills and inhibits the growth of surrounding plant life. Here is a picture of a rhizome.



My experience- Purchased a house one year ago. No disclosure about the running bamboo by attorneys, inspectors, realtors or previous owner. There is running bamboo on the property line the length of our gravel driveway in the front. We have taken out over 100 culms/stalks in the back corner that have come under and around the fence from a 20' wide, ~140' long field planted in my neighbor's backyard years ago for privacy.

My neighbor will not cooperate or take any responsibility for his plants on our property. He feels that it is our responsibility to protect our property from his invasive running bamboo. The plant grows 3' in a month during the growing season so we will be spending our weekends digging up and incinerating shoots and rhizomes that come up from our neighbors grove in our backyard and driveway. The shoots are also coming up in the middle of the sidewalk and hanging over the power lines.

Currently, the only way to protect your property after removing running bamboo is to sue the owner of the grove that is invading. Inheriting running bamboo from a neighbor who takes no responsibility means fighting the invasion week after week, year after year until the originating source is removed. For example the desire to pave our driveway cannot be realized until the bamboo is completely gone.

The bottom-line;

- No disclosure laws to protect a home, farm or business buyer from invasive and destructive running bamboo
- Running bamboo stigmatizes and devalues the property and increases the liability of ownership
- The cost of eradicating the property of running bamboo is only part of the expense. If your neighbor is the origin or your invasion all you can do is weekly maintenance to keep the shoots from growing on your property, in your septic system, foundation, power lines, decks, house sidings, driveway on and on.
- This problem is not like a branch hanging over the property line that can be cut. The root system spreads in solid woven layers down 2' and out 360 degrees 20'. It can drive up through concrete, asphalt, decks, siding...
- Running bamboo grows 3' feet per month and cannot be contained or killed with chemicals like "Round Up"
- The only recourse in protecting your property after you have eradicated it is to sue the owner of the originating source.
- The quality of life as a property owner with running bamboo has been substantially reduced through; lawsuits, money, time, effort, stigmatized property, and loss of property value as a result of running bamboo

**Declare running bamboo a nuisance with a 40 foot setback, no bamboo buffer zone on existing bamboo.**

➔ **Town of Orange has just passed a law last this month " Defining Running Bamboo a Nuisance" with a 100 foot setback [no bamboo buffer zone] on existing bamboo and no new plantings.**

**Law is shown on link below. This law sets a precedent and has been carefully written.**

**Town of Orange law;**

**<http://orangectlive.com/2014/02/14/have-bamboo-pay-attention-town-has-a-strict-ordinance-against-it/>**

The picture below is every homeowners nightmare! Running bamboo stalks coming up in your yard from your neighbors grove.

Devalued property prices resulting from a neighbor planting invasive bamboo is a real issue impacting thousands in CT.

Ironically, as the economy is recovering and property prices are increasing the victims of this circumstance are held hostage by their limited options to protect their investment from their neighbor's running bamboo.

Currently the only options open to homeowners when the bamboo owner is unwilling to remove the biological threat are; appeal to their town to reappraise the property to reduce taxes and enter into a civil lawsuit against the neighbor to remove the bamboo. Containment via a 30" trench with .60mil plastic, metal, cement or chemical killers...are popular "solutions" yet none work.

An inherited condition from a neighbors negligence should not be the recipients problem to fix. Until the running bamboo is completely removed the property cost will continue to depreciate. Bad will with neighbors, money, poor living environment and no choices but an adversarial approach to protect your property are disheartening routes to consider.



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