

To the : Environment Committee State of Connecticut
Testimony for S.B. 72
AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR THE GROWING OF RUNNING BAMBOO

From: Joseph L. Scalabrino February 17, 2014
22 Rock Pasture Road
Branford, CT 06405
Telephone; 203-488-8517

To whom it may concern,
I am asking that this letter be read as testimony at the legislative session on February 19, 2014 for a problem I am having with running bamboo.

My wife and I have been residents of Branford for 38 years. A next door neighbor planted bamboo on their property a few years ago, a variety I now know to be *Bambusa Phyllostachey's*. They have since sold the house to another family who tried to remove the growth by cutting down a section near my land on the north side of the property. The bamboo is again growing at a rapid rate in the section cut down because the roots were not removed. Over the years the bamboo spread to a backyard neighbor's property destroying a section of the fence that separates the two properties. The back yard neighbor must have liked the bamboo because it has spread across their property which borders my yard on the eastern rear of my property.

The bamboo has infiltrated my yard at the corner of the other two properties. I have attempted to cut down the shoots over the years but this has not worked. The bamboo has sprouted up, at some points, as much as 10 feet on my land. I have spent many days digging up spreading roots that resemble snakes. These roots sometimes appear near the surface which is when I can attempt to dig them out. When removed they look like a fish bone with roots streaming off of the main cord. These snake-like shoots give rise to a root ball that sprouts a new plant. The problem is that I have to wait to find where the shoot has gone before I try to dig it out. This is too late to stop the overall growth rate of the plant. In one area, the root system has gone under a 35 year old, established pine tree that may have to be removed to get at the bamboo. I am willing to pay a landscaper to remove this invasive and destroying growth from my land but it would be throwing good money after bad if the neighbors do not remove their growths. I am afraid that my property may be devalued if this spread is allowed to continue. My wife and I have spoken to other residents in Branford that are having a similar problem. One has it growing up through their driveway and another has told us that the bamboo is beginning to invade their neighboring wetlands.

The bamboo should be labeled a nuisance; It should be forced back from any neighboring property at least 40 feet [A 40 FOOT SETBACK]; property owners that have the bamboo on their land should be forced to keep it under control with a threat of legal action (something I would hate to see happen); all buffer zones should be eliminated; and there should not be a grandfather clause that would allow existing growth to continue to spread.

Please adopt a law that will keep this plant from developing into a greater problem.

Thank you,

Joseph L Scalabrino