

To: env.testimony@cga.ct.gov

Dear Environment Committee

RE: Testimony H.B. 6032

We would like to see clear wording "bamboo cannot be maintained or EXIST in the 40 foot buffer, regardless of when it was planted"

We are victims of a neighbor who planted running bamboo along the front and backyard property line. The bamboo is coming up in our driveway, sidewalk, yard and garden. It is knocking down our fence and strangling plants and trees on our property. The "running bamboo" is moving toward our home foundation, plumbing, gas, sewer lines. Cutting off the culms at ground level and adding chemicals or putting in barriers have failed. Complete eradication and incineration of the rhizomes roots are the only defense to improve our quality of life and protect our property and its value.

The town of Westport states they have no enforcement personnel. The Conservation Directors recommendation is to sue our neighbor . A bamboo victim cannot claim attorney fees. Connecticut follows the general American Rule in which litigants pay their own attorneys regardless of whether they win. In order to collect attorneys' fees and costs in any particular civil case, there has to be a statute which authorizes it.

We need to preserve and defend our property, and protect ourselves from the incoming spread of the rhizomes that are invading our property both in the front and the back. We need help in preserving our quality of life in CT. We need your assistance ensuring the addition of these three items in H. B. 6032.

The law must be clear to allow for a private citizen to be able to get enforcement of the law through court **action**.

1) Clear wording that bamboo shall not be maintained or allowed to Exist within the 40 foot buffer zone regardless of when the bamboo was planted

2) enforcement narrowed to Zoning Officers (since DEEP has no resources) with fines PAYABLE to the municipality

3) ADD that the Court can also enforce the 40 foot buffer zone with attorney fees, costs and disbursements paid to the prevailing party.

New House Bill 6032 <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-06032-R00-HB.htm>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide thoughts and recommendations regarding the control of "running bamboo".

Blake Audett & Trudy Meyer