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Re: Testimony for HB 6032: An Act clarifying provisions of the General Statutes concerning the use of barrier systems for certain plantings

Dear Environment Committee:

I am writing to you because I have continuous damage to my property from running bamboo.

The plants keep growing and are in very close proximity to the deck and foundation of my house. Another infrastructure that is threatened is my gas tank and its pipes and installation. Bamboo loves gas pipes, as they are cool in the summer, have some condensation around them and bamboo will go for that available moisture and strangle them. Needless to say, I do not have use of my garden anymore. It is overgrown and nothing will grow there, as the soil nutrients are depleted by the fast-growing bamboo, and the space it occupies. In fact I have 6000 – 7000 sq ft loss of property.

According to the property assessment of appeals (February 2014), the value of my property has decreased by 11%.

To strengthen and clarify HB 6032:

- 1) I would like to see clear wording that bamboo shall not be maintained or allowed to exist within the 40 ft buffer zone, regardless of when the bamboo was planted.
- 2) I would like fines to be paid to the town or municipalities involved, and enforcement of the law to fall to the local Zoning Officers or officials.
- 3) I would like any and all court costs, attorneys' fees, expert witness testimonies and related expenses, be enforced by the Court and paid to the prevailing party.

Thank you for reviewing, clarifying and strengthening this law so that it can be enforced.

With best regards,

Gabriele Kallenborn