

Testimony H.B. 6032

AN ACT CLARIFYING PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL STATUTES CONCERNING
THE USE OF BARRIER SYSTEMS FOR CERTAIN PLANTINGS

Gary and Carol Bowers
623 Upper Grassy Hill Road
Woodbury, CT 06798

Dear Environment Committee,

We reside at 623 Upper Grassy Hill Road in Woodbury, CT, and have been experiencing encroachment of bamboo onto our property from the neighboring property at 629 Upper Grassy Hill Road. To date, we have been unable to stop the spread into our gardens and lawn area. We are concerned that it will eventually attack the septic system leaching fields, then our driveway and beyond. Also of paramount concern is the resale value of our property – not to mention the fact that it may be virtually impossible to sell, considering the encroachment of invading bamboo.

This stand of bamboo has also invaded the roadside, and even the road surface itself, with the occasional shoot coming through the asphalt. I believe the roadside plants could be especially dangerous and invasive considering that drainage runoff might spread the plants far beyond this property, thus creating other stands farther down the hill. At this point, we are helpless to stop the spread of bamboo from destroying our property and seriously impacting our property value.

To remedy this situation and others around us, I would ask that the House Bill 6032 include the following specific wording to significantly strengthen our bamboo laws:

1. Clear wording that bamboo shall not be maintained, or allowed to exist in any form within a 40 foot buffer zone regardless of when the bamboo is/was planted.
2. Since DEEP has no resources, enforcement should be narrowed to local Zoning Officers with enforceable fines payable to each municipality.
3. Courts must also enforce the 40 foot buffer zone, with attorney fees, costs and disbursements paid to the prevailing party.

We appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,
Gary and Carol Bowers