

February 1, 2015

Holly M. Kocet
2 Karen Boulevard
Newtown, CT 06470

**HB 6032 AN ACT CLARIFYING PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL STATUTES CONCERNING
THE USE OF BARRIER SYSTEMS FOR CERTAIN PLANTINGS**

To the Environment Committee:

My name is Holly Kocet and I live at 2 Karen Boulevard in Newtown, CT. I support the intent of HB 6032 but I believe the three (3) provisions listed below should be added to enable enforcement of the 40 foot buffer zone. These changes are needed for clarity and effective enforcement for homeowners' protection from destruction of property and the negative effects on property values.

Of equally serious concern is the protection of our environment. Yellow-groove Bamboo can negatively impact natural areas as well. Bamboo has no value in supporting our native wildlife and if allowed to spread into open space, woodland areas and watercourses, it can crowd out and destroy native plant species which are critical in supporting pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Bamboo should not be allowed to spread into any public or private lands. As an alien species it has no natural controls and is highly invasive.

- 1) Clear wording that bamboo should 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 with fines payable to the municipality because DEEP has no resources to enforce this bill.
- 3) Add that the Court can also enforce the 40 foot buffer zone with attorney fees, costs and disbursements paid to the prevailing party.

Please strengthen House Bill 6032 to include the three (3) recommendations listed which will serve to protect homeowners and preserve our natural environments. Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Holly M. Kocet

