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## **House Bill 6032**

I am writing from Old Saybrook, Connecticut, regarding a serious concern with invasive running bamboo.

I live on Main Street in a historical home built in 1697, and the yellow groove running bamboo that my neighbors have planted along the property line is beginning to spread to my property. Over the past three years, I have watched the plant grow and spread rapidly --- and it will soon result in significant damages to my property. The foundation of my house, blue stone patio, driveway, and lawn are all in danger, which concerns me a great deal. I also worry about the state of my home -- a historical property -- and what will happen when the bamboo reaches the house, which won't be long. Additionally, our properties are adjacent to marsh lands, to which the bamboo will pose a huge threat. Despite efforts to remove the bamboo, I am still seeing growth on my property.

Although I applaud the effort and work that has been done to date on this issue, the existing bill is not enough. It leaves out a few of major issues. First, the language around no person should "plant or allow running bamboo to be planted" -- what if it has already been planted? This language doesn't cover that. And second, who will enforce this law? That has been a major challenge with the last bill -- there hasn't been a clear agency or organization in charge of enforcing it. We need these areas clearly addressed in the amendment, and I suggest the following changes:

- 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.

We need to work collaboratively together, and we need to do everything we can now. Many thanks for your work on this challenge.

Best regards,  
Jillian Murphy