

Testimony for H.B.6032

An Act Clarifying Provisions of the General Statutes Concerning the use of Barrier Systems for Certain Plantings

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138 Main Street South
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February 1, 2015

Environment Committee
State of Connecticut
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for H.B. 6032.

We are homeowners in Bridgewater, Connecticut. Our property has been invaded by yellow-groove bamboo that our neighbor planted near the property line in several places. The bamboo has spread, sending up shoots 20 feet into our property. The bamboo has damaged our driveway and filled the ground with woody rhizomes.

We have had to make several unwanted changes to our property in an attempt to slow the spread of this highly invasive plant system. We have had to remove fencing, trees, and gardens. In addition, during the growing season, we are faced with the unending and difficult job of uprooting new growth. We are sure that the presence of bamboo has reduced the value of our property and would impede our ability to sell the property should we decide to do so.

Two neighboring properties, nearby town and fire department properties, and CT route 133 are also threatened by the bamboo.

I support the intent of H.B. 6032 but would like to see the following items added to the bill to clarify the intent:

- 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 the local Zoning Officer, 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.

Please see the attached photographs of my property.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hobbs
Franziska Hobbs



New bamboo shoots in spring 2014.



25 foot tall bamboo grove two feet from our driveway and 30 feet from our house and septic system.



Trees and fence that were removed to dig out rhizomes and install a bamboo barrier. Note the bamboo behind the fence.



After fence and trees were removed and barrier installed.