

Megan Graham  
92 Lycett St  
Trumbull, CT 06611

Testimony House Bill 6032

Dear Environment Committee,

About five years ago my neighbor planted running bamboo on the property line between our houses. Only once during those five years did he bother attending to or transplanting the bamboo. Last May in 2014 He moved to Hawaii. When I asked him what he planned to do with the bamboo he simply stated "I'm moving to Hawaii" The bamboo up until this point was a small patch and not really developing new sprouts. Almost instantly after he left the bamboo took off and shoots were popping up all over my yard. The growth of the plants was measured in feet and took off in all directions traveling across and down my yard. They also began shooting up in his yard and under his, my neighbors, deck. Since he left there was a family that rented the property. They noticed the growth of the bamboo and have tried cutting it down and controlling the new shoots as best they could. I have contacted a company that deals with bamboo removal and containment. According to this particular company the only way to kill bamboo is to use Agent Orange and even this is not entirely effective. Since using such a chemical is out of the question, my only other choice is to dig up my yard to hopefully get all the rhizomes out of the dirt, put in a barrier that is not 100% effective and pray that the bamboo doesn't pop up somewhere else on my yard. Since rhizomes can grow over and under the barrier it needs to be monitored all the time and new shoots dealt with immediately. The barrier itself has to be placed around the bamboo, as in a complete circle not simply placed in front of it as the bamboo will continue to run along the barrier until it finds an opening.

I do not know what my neighbor was told about the bamboo and its growth patterns, but regardless he made no attempts to control or thwart its traveling onto my property. I am at a disadvantage because I live on the Trumbull/Bridgeport line. The neighbor who planted the bamboo lives in Bridgeport and I live in Trumbull. This means that I need both Trumbull and Bridgeport to help pass and enforce the new bill. This new bill must include the following to be effective:

**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 should be by the Zoning Officers with fines payable to the municipality.**

**and lastly**

**3.) The court can also enforce the 40 foot buffer zone with attorney fees, costs and disbursements paid to the prevailing party**

I never knew how much the simple act of planting bamboo could affect the everyday experiences I have in my own home. From most areas of the house you can see the ten to twelve foot stalks. As soon as I drive to my house there it is. New shoots tripping us up when the kids, dogs and I play in the backyard. I cannot even sit on my own back porch without feeling the worry and anxiety of the impending problem which is always visible. As of last June's assessment I will have to pay \$5000 for the removal, containment and disposal of the bamboo on my property. That is if I am able to get permission from my neighbor to remove his fence to put in the proper circular containment barrier. Of course then I will have to pay on top of the \$5000 to put a barrier on both our properties, repair any damage to both properties and put up his fence again even though the bamboo was planted by him. If this bill doesn't pass I can try and take my neighbor to court, however it can take up to five years before we settle, if I am granted the money or reimbursement it may not include the attorney fees, time from work for depositions and such. By that time if I do not get permission for a proper containment barrier, the bamboo could spread across my entire lawn with no hope of relief. This bill will not only help those with current issues but protect those in the future, this includes businesses, residences and town owned properties, streets and underground utilities. If you check my property lines one can see I am on a corner lot. On two sides I am surrounded by Trumbull property. In five years from now the bamboo will reach the road if not contained and anyone who knows how the root system works, also knows the damage this root system can inflict. I implore you to please spend the time becoming familiar with the lives and damage this plant inflicts, not just obvious physical damage but the financial and emotional damage of being hopeless in a situation not of our own doing. Our hope lies in your hands.

Thank you for being there to hear us out regardless of the outcome,

Sincerely,

Megan Graham