

Feb. 4, 2015

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Testimony House Bill 6032

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

Dear Environment Committee,

We support the intent of House Bill 6032, but it is not enforceable as it stands.

We need a law that is enforceable. The following stipulations must be included to protect Connecticut regarding Running Bamboo.

- 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.

The law must be clear to allow for a private citizen to be able to get enforcement of the law through court action.

We are victims of a neighbor's running bamboo (*Phyllostachys bissetii* - bisset bamboo), which is invading our property. Their running bamboo covers quite a big area approximately 30 by 100 feet. It is currently spreading into their wetland, natural habitat areas and into our yard.

We have several large canes and many spikes appearing in our yard. So it is definitely invading our property and something has to be done about it, or else our property will be destroyed.

Running bamboo culms grow quickly 1-2 feet per day, and can reach 30-45 feet tall. Our canes are now about 15 to 20 feet tall. The roots called "rhizomes" spread rapidly underground 20 feet per year around each cane, and are approx. 24 to 30 inches deep.

The rhizomes do not allow any chemical substance into it to kill it. Therefore, running bamboo has to be dug up, and the rhizomes burned to really get rid of it.

We need an enforceable law in Connecticut to protect the property owners that encounter the invasion and destruction of running bamboo from a neighbor's yard.

In our situation: If something is not done soon, our property will be in serious trouble as the invasion is spreading rapidly underground.

(See attached photos - running bamboo invading our property in Oxford, CT)

Regards,
Patricia and Steven Fetyko



Phyllostachys bissetii - infestation in Oxford, CT

Images by Caryn Rickel







