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

Dear Environment Committee,

I support the intent of the bill but would like the bill to include:

- 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 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.

Over six years ago my neighbor planted *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* - yellow groove bamboo on my property border. Innocent enough, the bamboo started to grow and spread like wildfire through my vegetable garden, which is a key component to my success as a caterer. Since I was not aware of the invasiveness of the plant, nor did I realize that:

YOU CANNOT KILL IT, STOP IT OR AMEND ITS GROWTH UNLESS YOU BACKHOE THE WHOLE PLANT, BURN IT AND DISPOSE OF PROPERLY.

My neighbor tells me that “the spread” of his bamboo into my property is MY PROBLEM. And he has NO intention of curbing, eliminating or disposing of it anytime soon. The bamboo is now surfacing further all across my lawn and will soon be consuming the entire front lawn, my huge vegetable garden and area equivalent to a half an acre of my property.

The LOSS of use of my once-abundant and professionally created vegetable garden alone means that I have had to buy fresh produce on a daily basis for my catering clients. The three items suggested above, would enable the law to be

enforced to protect those who are victimized by its growth, its destruction and its ongoing propagation. In my case, the inability to grow fresh produce. I am approaching retirement and fear not being able to sell my home. The bamboo has spread further underground and will destroy my property. I urge you and the legislature to pass H.B. 6032, with the three items above included. This will strengthen and clarify the law, enabling enforcement of the 40 foot buffer zone to stop the continual damage caused by running bamboo. This will protect law abiding homeowners from invasions of bamboo.

Sincerely,
Priscilla S. Weadon