



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MITCH BOLINSKY
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL PHONE: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
Mitch.Bolinsky@housegop.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
AGING COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Testimony by Representative Mitch Bolinsky
Before the Environment Committee
House Bill 6032
February 4, 2015*

My thanks to the Honorable Co-Chairs, Senator Kennedy and Representative Albis; Vice Chairs Senator Moore and Representative Arconti; Ranking Members Senator Chapin and Representative Shaban; as well as the entire Environment Committee for your consideration today, addressing the issue of “Running Bamboo”.

Unfortunately, I must oppose this raised bill because it does not do what it purports to do in its very title: “Clarifying Provisions of the General Statutes Concerning the Use of Barrier Systems for Certain Plantings”. It appears to me that it mainly re-states the current regulation, except for removing a reference to barrier systems.

What it does not address is a clarification that current law restricts planting, yet does not address the spread of this invasive species into the 40-foot “buffer” between abutting properties or public rights of way. HB 6032 also does nothing to define the mechanism or primary agencies authorized to enforce the law, which I believe should be the locality. Finally, there is also no clarification of how violators shall be held accountable for not heeding the law and the efforts of enforcement officials. It is my belief that should enforcement require litigious elevation that the locality prosecuting such remedies be entitled to not just fines, as defined by the law, but also court, legal and other remediation expenses related to a prevailing judgment.

HB 6032’s deficiencies, as stated above, are addressed in Proposed Bill HB 6043, which I had introduced. I strongly recommend it being raised or its provisions be edited into HB 6032.

In a moment, I will turn my chair over to Mary Wilson, Newtown’s former Chair of the Conservation Commission, who can speak to this subject far more eloquently than I.

Thank you for your time and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Representative Mitch Bolinsky