

Dear Environmental Committee

Alicja & Donald Milardo
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Meriden, CT 06451

Testimony H.B. 6032

We support the intent of the bill but would like to see the 3 items included in H.B. 6032-

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.

We have a neighbor who planted running bamboo that IS NOT CONTAINED 1 FOOT away from our property line last year, and also planted it along the main road. We are not on speaking terms. It has already started to spread & come this spring it will take off like wildfire!!! We have contacted the DEEP numerous times & each time they have said that they have no resources to enforce the containment/removal of this bamboo. We have also contacted the town zoning officer who has said that they have nothing in writing to follow any type enforcement regarding bamboo. In fact the zoning officer said he hadn't heard anything about "bamboo issues" in Meriden and said he couldn't help us. He thought we were nuts. I said if YOU had this problem of running bamboo crossing into your yard and causing SERIOUS damage then you wouldn't be saying what you just said.

I am attaching photos of the newly planted bamboo from last year that will spread closer & onto our property. We need to have enforcement to force our neighbor to either contain or remove ALL of the bamboo. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE have the 3 items added to HOUSE BILL 6032 to strengthen the bill & allow enforcement of the 40 foot buffer zone on EXISTING bamboo.