

Feb. 4, 2015

Testimony for H.B.6032

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

I would like to thank the Chairs of the Environment Committee, Senator Ted Kennedy, Jr. and Representative James Albis, as well as the Committee for scheduling H.B. 6032 for a public hearing.

My name is Anne Egan and I live on Ocean Avenue in Milford, CT. While I support the intent of this bill, I ask that the following three items be added to clarify and enable enforcement of the buffer zone:

- 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 the municipality 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 an individual to be able to get enforcement by a private action in court. This would allow private enforcement as well as municipal enforcement.

Nothing should prevent private citizens from enforcing the buffer zone themselves, if necessary.

As of today, the running bamboo continues to invade further damaging my property.

I purchased my home in 2005 and in 2006 spent several thousand dollars improving the gardens on my property. After completion of the work, my neighbor planted running bamboo. Despite my best efforts and a substantial financial investment, I have been unable to stop the continual spread of the bamboo. The bamboo continues to march across my property and threatens my property value, having the potential to threaten the structural integrity of my home.

I was unable to get enforcement of the law last year. The further spread of this running bamboo is a serious problem as it continues to encroach on my home.

I appreciate your consideration of my request.

Anne Egan
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