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HB6032 - AN ACT CLARIFYING PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL STATUTES
CONCERNING THE USE OF BARRIER SYSTEMS FOR CERTAIN PLANTINGS

Dear Environmental Committee:

Feb.4, 2015

I support the intent of HB 6032, but am requesting that the following 3 items be added:

- 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.

These three clarifications would strengthen the act allowing for enforcement. The law must be clear allowing for a private citizen to get enforcement through the court.

I am personally concerned as a naturalist, because this aggressive species has invaded open spaces. It has become an environmental issue threatening our ecosystem. It is not only on private properties, but in the beautiful places we all enjoy. Our parks and land trusts have been invaded.

The bigger picture includes the waters, woodlands and marshes that are the habitat of our native plants and animals. Native plants will be choked out. Wildlife food sources and habitats will be destroyed. This would be a tragic loss of life and lands so precious to all of us.

It is not hopeless. It can be remedied by using proper abatement processes. Since this plant is so aggressive, time is a factor. A simple matter of words could curtail the spread and protect our environment. I anticipate seeing *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* appear on the invasive species list in Connecticut before some of our cherished flora and fauna are placed on the endangered species list.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these proposed additions to HB 6032.

Respectfully yours,
Diane S. Bania