

Joseph L. Scalabrino
22 Rock Pasture Road
Branford, CT 06405

January 26, 2015

Testimony for H.B. 6032

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

Dear Environment Committee,

Last February I submitted testimony and addressed the Environment Committee regarding the bamboo on two neighboring properties that has invaded my land. I was supporting the Committee's S.B. 72 supplement to Public Act 14-100. I would like to explain what has happened since the law was passed.

Last summer I approached our Zoning Enforcement Officer to see what could be done to implement action on the neighboring properties. She outright refused to do anything because the law was unclear and that she had little or no authoritative power. She was correct. There is no incentive for the town to expend money to address the bamboo restrictions and there is no strength in the law for enforcement.

I further contacted DeMar's Landscaping in Branford to see what they would charge me to remove the invading bamboo from my land. The representative from their company quoted me a price of \$1,000., which I considered reasonable even though I never planted the bamboo. He did suggest that I not expend the money because the bamboo would only return due to its power to spread from the neighboring growth at the property lines. I had already been using a diluted spray of ROUNDUP which contains the chemical GLYPHOSATE to help control the growth on my land. The DeMar's representative suggested that I continue to cut new shoots then add a cotton ball to each shoot location and use the ROUNDUP full strength. This would help control the plant but needed to be applied frequently and might take several seasons to totally stop the spread. It has slowed the continuance of further invasion but I fear what the runoff will eventually do to any ground water or marshland in the long run.

What Public Act 14-100 needs is teeth to help stop the continual damage and onslaught of invasive running bamboo. With the town's current lack of interest in getting involved and the potential of chemical pollution, I recommend that House Bill 6032 include wording that will clarify and strengthen the law, enable enforcement, and give the Zoning Enforcement Officer and town an incentive to enforce the law; therefore I ask that the following Three Additions be added to 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) Adding that the Court can also enforce the 40 foot buffer zone with attorney fees, costs and disbursements paid to the prevailing party.

I ask that this testimony be made part of the January 30, 2015 Public Hearing of the Environment Committee.

Thank You,

Joseph L. Scalabrino