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February 15, 2016

The Honorable Ted Kennedy, Co-Chair
The Honorable James Albis, Co-Chair
Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Kennedy and Representative Albis:

Several members of our association feel that the various measures passed by the Legislature over the past few years, relative to "Running Bamboo", are confusing and somewhat ambiguous. These members would like to see the various laws, currently in place, replaced by a single comprehensive law that nursery producers, landscape professionals, and homeowners can easily understand. This law would allow the use of "Tall Hedge Bamboo" (*Phyllostachys*) with sensible restrictions that protect adjacent property owners.

Mike Johnson, President of Summer Hill Nursery in Madison, has been working towards improving the legislation that currently exists. He is a past president of the Connecticut Nurserymen's Association and has over 50 years of experience in the nursery industry. He has extensive knowledge relative to hardy bamboo. The board of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association endorse his efforts to improve and clarify the laws that are currently in place. A single concise but comprehensive law relative to "Tall Hedge Bamboo" would benefit nursery producers, landscape professionals, and homeowners who wish to use this valuable plant.

As you probably know, Running Bamboo is not considered an Invasive Plant in Connecticut. We continue to participate on the Invasive Plants Council with two active Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association members providing expertise to the council. Knowing that gardeners and consumers have questions about *Phyllostachys*, the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association endorses a comprehensive law that clarifies and consolidates current laws on Running Bamboo.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Kogut, President
Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association