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This testimony is in reference to Senate Bill Number 79-An Act Clarifying Provisions of the General Statutes Regarding the Use of Properly Installed and Constructed Barrier Systems for Certain Plantings.

The Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association takes the invasive plant issue quite seriously. We have two members serving on the Invasive Plant Council, a group of industry professionals as well academic and institutional/government experts. The Invasive Plant Council has yet to term Tall Hedge Bamboo (*Phyllostachys* sp.) as invasive because it does not fit the definition.

As industry professionals, we have observed and worked with Bamboo in production as well as in the landscape, and have learned how to control them effectively in both situations. Plant roots cannot grow through a 60 mil (approximate thickness of two credit cards) barrier when correctly installed. There is not a cold hardy plant that can do so. Repealing use of a barrier within 40 feet will not resolve the problem, as distance from property lines is not the issue, the issue lies in improper management. Education coupled with legislation ensuring proper installation and maintenance would be a more effective and permanent solution.

I recognize the difficulty of working with a short session that has less than three months left. Please take my commentary into account, and perhaps consider a more comprehensive bill that will be more effective at a later session. I am always available for questions or comments should my expertise be required.

Sincerely,

Darryl Newman

Legislative Co-Chair  
Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association