

David Long and Lena Johansson-Long
4 Parker Hill Road
Brookfield CT 06804
203-775-5922.

February 17, 2016

RE: Testimony for **S.B. 79 AN ACT CLARIFYING PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL STATUTES REGARDING THE USE OF PROPERLY INSTALLED AND CONSTRUCTED BARRIER SYSTEMS FOR CERTAIN PLANTINGS.**

Dear Environment Committee:

We have owned our house on 4 Parker Hill Road in Brookfield since October of 1980. Our lot is considered an inside lot. Between our property and the property in front of us are wetlands with natural woods. Because of storms over the years and our neighbors in front not maintaining their property, many trees have fallen down in storms.

Approximately 2 years ago our neighbors decided they wanted more privacy in their back yard and planted running bamboo along the property line. This, even though we had spent over \$5,000 on a hedge planted by a professional landscaping business to clearly mark the property line as well as for privacy. We pointed out at the time of the planting that the running bamboo is very destructive and that the plantings were very close to our septic fields. They were not worried that this was an issue at all. In the 2 years since then, the plants are now 6 - 7+ feet tall. The distance from our property line to the bamboo is only 6-7 feet. In one spot the bamboo has already crossed over to our side and into the hedge row. This plant is only 10 Feet from our septic fields.

This was brought to our neighbor's attention last fall and we asked them to come and look, which Mr. did. We pointed out the concern and how close it was to our septic fields (as well as to their own) and that it would take some serious barriers to stop the growth at this point. The hope was they would make an effort to remove the bamboo, but nothing has happened.

Since we are not able to attend the hearing on Friday 2/19/16 in person we ask the Committee to consider the following language to be included in bill **S.B 79**:

- 1) ADD 3 words: "**or to grow**" **as** these 3 words would clarify the 40 foot buffer zone. In our case this is particularly important.
- 2) ADD subsection (g) - "**A private right of action may be maintained by an adjoining property owner to enforce the provisions of subsection (c) of this statute. The plaintiff is entitled to attorneys' fees, the costs and disbursements if he/she is the prevailing party.**"

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this very important issue.

Respectfully

David S. Long and Lena Johansson-Long