

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.

Kevin and Franziska Hobbs
138 Main Street South
Bridgewater, CT 06752

February 15, 2016

Environment Committee
State of Connecticut
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for S.B. 79.

We are homeowners in Bridgewater, Connecticut. Our property has been invaded by yellow-groove bamboo that our neighbor planted near the property line in several places. The bamboo has spread, sending up shoots 20 feet into our property. The bamboo has damaged our driveway and filled the ground with woody rhizomes.

We have had to make several unwanted changes to our property in an attempt to slow the spread of this highly invasive plant system. We have had to remove fencing, trees, and gardens. In addition, during the growing season, we are faced with the difficult and unending job of uprooting new growth. We are sure that the presence of the bamboo has reduced the value of our property and would impede our ability to sell the property should we decide to do so.

Two neighboring properties, nearby town and fire department properties, and CT route 133 are also threatened by the bamboo.

I support the intent of S.B. 79 but would like to see the following items added to the bill to clarify the intent:

- 1) ADD the three words "or to grow". These three words clarify the 40 foot buffer zone
- 2) ADD subsection (g) to the various subsections - *this will authorize an individual to seek * private enforcement of the buffer zone in court and authorize attorney fee.* Language needed:
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, and costs and disbursements if he/she is the prevailing party."

Please see the attached photographs of my property.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hobbs
Franziska Hobbs



Bamboo shoots on my property. They grow quickly.



25 foot tall bamboo grove two feet from our driveway and 30 feet from our house and septic system.



Our trees and fence that had to be removed to install a bamboo barrier. Note the bamboo behind the fence.



After fence and trees were removed and a barrier installed.