

Dear Environment Committee:

My name is Kimberlee Sirois Pita. I am currently a business and homeowner in two Connecticut towns. My addresses are:

155 North Condor Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
31 Middletown Avenue, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

I am submitting testimony today 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

While I appreciate the work that has been done on this act to date and I support its overall intent, there are still two major details that need to be included to ensure the damage I incurred on my property in Old Saybrook does not happen to anyone else. I have attached some photographs so you can see the unwieldy growth of the yellow bamboo that was planted before I moved onto the property. I was left with a \$3,000 excavation project to remove the bamboo burden from my yard, as well as my neighbors yard. Unfortunately, each spring bamboo sprouts come back because it is such an invasive root system, which in my mind should not be planted anywhere in the State of Connecticut, and especially without the proper barriers and protections in place.

I am requesting S.B. 79 include the following revisions:

- 1) ADD 3 words "or to grow" to the bill, which will clarify the intended 40 foot buffer zone
- 2) ADD subsection (g) to the various subsections, which will authorize an individual to seek private enforcement of the buffer zone in court and authorize attorney fees. The suggested language is as follows:

"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."

Thank you so much for your attention to this matter that is so important to residents in the state!!

All the best,

Kim Sirois Pita
Transformation Advisor
Pita Peaces