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Senate Bill 79

Feb. 13, 2016

Dear Environment Committee Members,

I am writing to you because I cannot be there in person to voice my thoughts or feelings. It is my intent this letter serve as my testimony regarding Senate Bill 79. I am strongly in favor of this bill. This law must address the problem of existing bamboo running bamboo to be effective. I am sure you are aware of the tremendous damage this almost indestructible plant can do.

I ask that that the following be added to Senate Bill 79.

1) add ““or to grow” to clarify subsection (c)

These 3 words clarify the 40 foot buffer zone as originally intended and need to be included.

2) add a new subsection (g) - so an individual can seek private enforcement of the buffer zone themselves in court and authorize attorney fees.

Add new 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 attorney fees and costs if he/she is the prevailing party.

I have witnessed the infestations, but what goes on underground is the most devastating of all. Septic tanks, wells, water pipes and gas lines are all at serious risk. The frightening part is this cannot be seen, until it is too late. I hope this bill will pass with these provisions. It is sorely needed. Neighboring properties would not be so vulnerable to infestation and the State of Connecticut would have some control over this serious threat.

I feel quite strongly that this is necessary to make this law work as intended. It gives recourse to homeowners facing illegal unwanted property invasions from Phyllostachys running bamboo.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nancy Mahon