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Testimony for S.B. 79

2/16/2016

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

Dear Environment Committee Members,

I am unable to attend the hearing due to medical issues but would like my testimony read. I would like to thank you for your hard work regarding *Phyllostachys* Running Bamboo.

I strongly support S.B. 79 but it needs to include the following two items to be clear that this very destructive plant shall not be grown within the 40-foot buffer zone as intended.

1) ADD 3 words [or to grow](#)

These 3 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 themselves and authorize attorney fees.

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.

This will enable even limited income victims the ability to contact an attorney and engage the court system to find relief from a neighbor's invasion of private property.

Phyllostachys running bamboo is not the soft wispy innocent looking plant that growers/sellers would like you to believe. Running bamboo quickly destroys native vegetation by sucking up all soil nutrition and moisture to grow into a 40 foot plus

tall bully that becomes 7-8 inches in circumference, and an impenetrable jungle eager to invade septic tanks, wetlands, foundations, and even our state parks.

Phyllostachys is a giant timber bamboo, and the fastest growing plant on earth. It invades rapidly in all directions, easily surviving blizzards, droughts and hurricanes.

Our neighboring State of New York has listed *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* as an invasive species, banning the sale of yellow groove bamboo in New York.

The USDA Weed Risk Assessment for *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* has resulted in a rating of High Risk invader. (August 2012) Documentation of running bamboo rhizomes traveling offsite by water and taking root without the aid of humans, qualifies *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* to be listed in Connecticut as an invasive species.

Thank you for allowing me to present this information.

Sincerely,
Theresa Groff

(Images attached)





***Phyllostachys aureosulcata* - yellow groove bamboo infestation in Norwich, CT Images by Caryn Rickel**