

**Submission date: February 3, 2023**

**HEARING DATE: February 7, 2023**

**BILL:** HB 90  
**SPONSOR:** Delegate Linda Foley  
**TITLE:** Local Gov't—Regulatory Powers—Control of Running Bamboo  
**POSITION:** Favorable  
**COMMITTEE:** Environment & Transportation Committee

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

**Holly Shimizu** thanks the Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony for HB 90 to support the Bill HB 90.

Over the course of my 40-year professional life as a Horticulturist, I have encountered major issues with invasive/running bamboo. This testimony is based on my direct experience.

This bill will help prevent major damage to Maryland's natural areas, farms, and neighborhoods while providing support for conserving our native plants, wildlife, and biodiversity. Moreover, this Bill will assist residents, businesses, farmers and others in avoiding and lessening the destruction caused by invasive bamboo species. Running bamboo is an extremely strong plant with a powerful root system that is difficult to remove. For this reason, once running bamboo is established, no other plants will grow with it. Roots are thick and tough and almost impossible to dig up by hand.

Once established, running bamboo spreads rapidly over large areas of land, and even under sidewalks and other structures. New growth of running bamboos is rapid, often emerging a long distance from the mother plant. Containment must be done either by deep trenching or installation of a strong barrier going at least 36 inches deep with a lip above ground so the bamboo will not jump over the barrier. For this reason, either not planting running bamboo or containment is a serious issue that needs to be addressed.

For these reasons **Holly Shimizu** urges a favorable report for HB 90.

**Name: Holly H. Shimizu**

**Organization: Executive Director Emeritus, U.S. Botanic Garden**

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cc: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee