



Bill: HB 90 - Local Government- Regulatory Powers - Control of Running Bamboo

Position: Support w/ Amendment

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Gaithersburg, a municipality of Montgomery County, with a population of almost 70,000 at the time of the 2020 Census is the third largest city in the State. To make the City a desirable place to live, we prioritize connecting our communities to nature and protecting natural spaces. To do this, the City has a number of stormwater outreach and education programs, including:

- Weed worries (volunteers are taught to identify and manage invasive species);
- Rainscapes rewards (offers resources and rebates for native plantings); and
- Neighborhood grants (fund community-led projects, like nature play spaces)

However, non-native, invasive plants, like bamboo, pose a severe threat to the ecological health of our parks and riparian forest buffers. It also infringes on the access and enjoyment of green spaces. Several species of running bamboo have proven invasive in Maryland, taking over natural areas and crossing into neighbors' yards and the enjoyment of their properties. Bamboo has exceptionally vigorous growth and is resilient despite control efforts. It is very challenging to eradicate and even more costly to contain.

For these reasons, the City of Gaithersburg supports HB 90 with the proposed sponsor amendment.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Sarah Peters at speters@hbstrategies.us. We appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

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