

Please accept this testimony in support of Raised S. B. No. 446.

The State of Connecticut enjoys a remarkably diverse range of inland water bodies. Unfortunately, the State's waters are increasingly under threat from a range of invasive species. Within the past two years alone, invasive zebra mussels have infected Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar and the Housatonic River. This invasion is already shifting the ecology of these water bodies and will require ever increasing expenditures to manage their impact. Zebra mussels are now literally knocking on the door of Candlewood Lake- the State's largest and crown-jewel water body. Once Zebra mussels infect a water body of size, there is no way to remove them.

It is much more cost effective to spend the necessary funds on preventing the spread of invasive aquatic species than it is to spend funds trying to mitigate the damage after a water body becomes infected. Studies have concluded that \$1 spent on prevention typically equals \$100 of remediation.

Please pass this bill to provide the DEEP with the funding necessary to help protect these important resources.

Sincerely,

Scott Randall
Sherman Resident
CTD Board Member
Lake Advocate