

Environment Committee
Public Testimony
March 11, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of HOUSE BILL 5583

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis; Vice Chairs Senator Moore, Representative Arconti; Ranking Members Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban; and esteemed members of the Committee. My name is ALLIS BROOKS HANLEY and I am writing in SUPPORT of House Bill 5583 ***AN ACT CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT REGARDING ANNUAL WATER LEVEL DRAW DOWNS AT BASHAN LAKE IN THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM.***

The Brooks family has owned our land on Bashan Lake since the original dam was built. My father and now my brother and sister and I have done our best to maintain the 35 acres of property and the 90 year old home as best we can. We are especially concerned with maintaining the land without allowing development and to maintain it by following acceptable environmental standards. We are in the process of building a new wall on the lakefront to protect the land. It has taken us over a year to locate a landscape developer and to obtain the permits to complete the process by following procedures acceptable to DEEP, the Land Use Officer and the Wetlands Committee. They have proposed a Hybrid Shoreline Stabilization project that would include topsoil over riprap stone to support plantings supported by coir logs and covered with woven geo textile filter fabric. The cost of this project may be as high as \$65,000. We hope that this project will last for the next 50 years! However, if the new shoreline stabilization is subjected to the movement of ice build up each spring, we do not anticipate that our investment will survive for an appreciable length of time. We strongly urge you to pass House Bill 5583 to allow annual water level draw downs at Bashan Lake in the town of East Haddam.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Allis Brooks Hanley
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