

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 Craig Chalifoux and I am the President of Wildwood, INC a cooperative community of 38 lake front cottages on Bashan Lake. 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 annual draw down of Bashan Lake is considered a necessary and important function to our membership. We have experienced that the drawdown protects our docks and waterfront from damaging winter ice flows and controls the invasive weeds that are close to our shore.

Wildwood, Inc. consists of 38 seasonal lakefront cottages along the southwest shore of Bashan Lake. Bashan Lake is a treasure that our community is dedicated to preserving. Since its incorporation in 1981 Wildwood has been a good steward of the lake maintaining our mainly undeveloped 146 acre parcel as an important watershed to Bashan Lake. We are committed to the fight against the invasive weeds that plague the lake and our membership has provided considerable financial support to the Bashan Lake Association for treatment.

Invasive weeds have been a long standing problem at Bashan Lake and the control of these weeds has been seriously threatened by the recent dam reconstruction project. Prior to the dam reconstruction, DEEP held several public meetings for residents to voice their concerns. The public was assured that the project would be completed timely and that there would be no adverse effect to the lake. However, the project timing did not go as described in those meetings and as a result we now have a new invasive weed, Phragmites. Additionally, this has caused concern that existing invasive plant, milfoil, may be able to root in deeper areas of the lake and be harder to treat.

In closing, I would like to thank both Sen.Kennedy and Rep. Albis for visiting the lake this past summer and ask for their support in voting the bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Craig Chalifoux  
President, Wildwood, Inc.