

Greetings,

My name is Daniel Roberts and I am writing in support of House Bill 5583, An Act concerning the agreement regarding the annual water level drawdowns of Bashan Lake in the Town of East Haddam Connecticut.

I am writing you in hopes that improvements can be made in the management of Bashan Lake in East Haddam. I have owned lake front property for over 25 years, and like all my neighbors love and care for this wonderful place. It has crystal clear water and abundant wildlife, and all that live here are stewards of the lake and actively participate in ensuring that it stays that way.

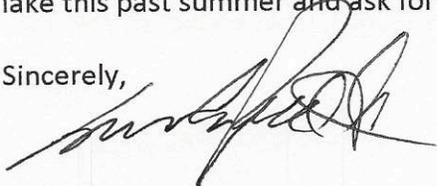
The recent activity concerning the dam restoration was needed and greatly improved the safety of the lake for years to come. The project over the previous winter seemed to be delayed and the effects on the lake were devastating. The lake never recovered from the drawdown and the results were that the water levels never returned to prevent invasive weeds from taking over all of the shoreline areas. The Bashan Lake Association had a fund drive that was supported by the town to raise the needed funds to help in the removal of these weeds. The state stepped in and prevented this from happening. Many home owners took it upon themselves to remove the weeds and did more damage than good.

Over the years the lake has been drawn down anywhere from three to five feet in the fall to protect waterfront walls and docks from being destroyed by the crushing effects of ice. The one year that the dam was closed to early caused many homeowners to have property damage that was both costly and avoidable. This drawdown also allows the stewards of the lake to clean up of areas along the shore line as well as inspection to ensure the septic systems are working properly. Over the years it has always been the concern of the community that the people in charge of the drawdown are not monitoring the process to ensure the proper levels.

I would ask you now that the control and monitoring of the water level to be the responsibility of the Town of East Haddam and the Bashan Lake Association.

In closing, I would like to thank both Senator Kennedy and Representative Albis for visiting the lake this past summer and ask for their support in voting this Bill out of Committee.

Sincerely,



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