

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 EILEEN WASHBURN 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.**

I am writing as a property owner in the Bashan Lake Association to ask that you support House Bill 5583 which would allow the BLA to instruct the Town of East Haddam on when and how much to lower the Bashan Lake water level and when to close the dam in the winter. The BLA does not want to be under pressure every year to continue to beg the DEEP to lower the water level. It is important to lower the water level every year to protect the docks and walls from winter damage, when we need a weed control program, or when work on existing walls needs to be addressed.

It is important that this bill give the power to the Town of East Haddam and lake residents to make decisions regarding our lake. No one is more investing in making sure that the lake remains a pristine and environmentally sound body of water than the residents of the lake, both year-round and summer residents. As property owners, we paid money out-of-pocket last year for weed control due to problems with the opening and closing of the dam due to construction by the State of Connecticut and DEEP. We do not want to see this happen again. It is critical that the residents who know best be given the power to decide what is best for the lake and for the properties surrounding it. For many years, Bashan Lake has been one of the cleanest lakes in the State of Connecticut, and we'd like to keep it that way. Since Bashan Lake serves as a State boat launch, we are sure you do too.

Special thanks to both Sen. Kennedy and Rep. Albis for visiting the lake this past summer. Please support this bill.

Thank you for your support,

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