

Greetings,

My name is Fred Hetzer and I am writing in support of House Bill 5583, An Act concerning the agreement regarding the annual water level draw downs of Bashan Lake in The Town of East Haddam.

I am writing you today in the hopes that some improvements can be made in the management of Bashan Lake in East Haddam. I have owned a house on the lake since 1981 and like all the people on the lake and in the area love this wonderful lake. It has crystal clear water and all here are stewards of the lake and actively participate in ensuring that it will stay that way.

The recent activity concerning the Dam restoration was welcomed, but also heartbreaking for us. The project which had been talked about for several years appears to have gotten bogged down and as a result the work started to late and with a bad winter the work could not be completed in a timely fashion. The water level was so low that many of the coves had no water last summer and almost instantly filled in with tall weeds, some of which are very invasive. The Bashan Lake Association had a fund drive so they could hire a firm to help remove the weeds only to be told that they weren't allowed to do that.

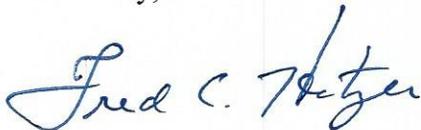
Over the years the lake has been "drawn down" about three feet in the fall to protect waterfront walls and docks from being destroyed by the crushing effects of ice. This also allowed the patrolling and clean up of the areas in front of homes, beaches and the state boat launch as well as allowing inspection to ensure there aren't any failed septic systems along the water fronts. Since the lake is primarily spring fed it also serves as a way of bringing fresh clean water into the lake every year.

Over the past several years there has been constant concern over if the water will be lowered, how much it will be lowered and if it will be properly monitored to ensure it is not lowered to much.

I would ask you at this time to pass the control and monitoring of the water level to the Town of East Haddam to make this activity easier for the citizens of East Haddam and the state of Connecticut.

In closing, I would 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred C. Hetzer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "F" and "H".

Fred Hetzer
132 Lakeside Drive
East Haddam, CT 06423