

Environment Committee

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5583  
An Act Concerning An Agreement Regarding Annual Water level Draw Dons at Bashan Lake in  
the Town of East Haddam**

My name is Kathleen Bahe and I am the owner of property on Bashan Lake, East Haddam, Ct.

This document is to offer written support of the above cited bill concerning water draw down for Bashan Lake.

My property has been in my family for one hundred (100) years and many generations have enjoyed the wonderful quality of life the lake affords.

I support of this bill for both personal and environmental reasons.

Personally, the lack of consistent and timely draw downs of the lake has long impacted our ability to maintain our property and make necessary repairs to docks and waterfront. This is especially true if/when town permits are required before making repairs or improvements as this can be a lengthy process that needs advance planning.

My property is an island and therefore access to the property from the water is also critically important. Without knowing if or when a draw down might occur in advance, it is impossible to plan around water levels, weather conditions, etc.

In addition, draw down of water levels on a consistent annual basis will help greatly to protect the property from the damage and the erosion that winter storms and ice formations have caused on numerous occasions.

Therefore it is extremely important that the lake be drawn down every year – something that DEEP has not been consistently willing to commit to.

From an environmental perspective an annual draw down will help to control the invasive weeds that are threatening the lake and the quality of its water. This threat has been exacerbated by the recent repair work on the dam . The repairs required that the lake be draw down over 16 feet (emptying the lake is all but the deepest middle ) which allowed the invasive weeds to take hold and grow vigorously this past summer. It will require aggressive and long term action to try to undo this damage and restore the lake to its previous condition. The weed invasion all along the shore has also impeded access to the lake lake from shore (especially the public boat launch area) that many Connecticut residents use to access this lake for fishing, water sports, etc. Annual draw downs will greatly assist with this effort.

The Bashan Lake Association in cooperation with the Town of East Haddam are in the best position to manage the timeliness and extent of water draw down of Bashan Lake.

I urge the committee to support this bill.

Thank you

Kathleen Bahe (resident of Fairfield, Ct and property owner in East Haddam , Ct)