

Environment Committee  
Public Testimony  
March 11, 2016

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5583**

Greetings 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 Kathleen Hutchinson 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.*

My family has owned a cottage on the lake for more than 70 years. Bashan Lake has been an integral and important part of my family's life. My Mom grew up going to the lake every summer, as did I, and then my son. I am hoping that someday my grandchildren will get to do the same. I feel the draw down is important to control the invasive weeds that have been wreaking havoc on Bashan Lake.

In recent years weeds such as milfoil, Phragmites, cattails, and others have invaded the lake. If we do not continue to draw down the lake on regular basis, the weeds will certainly take over Bashan Lake and eventually destroy the ability to partake in the many activities we now enjoy. As it is, we have lost 2 summers at the lake already because of the recent dam repair and subsequent lack of water and growth of these weeds.

I would like to thank both Senator Kennedy and Representative Albis for visiting the lake this past summer and ask I am asking for your support in voting the bill out of committee.

Thank you,

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