

Environment Committee
Public Testimony
March 11, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of HOUSE BILL 5583

Hello 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 Kenneth Crouse and my wife is Wendy Crouse and we are 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.***

We have waterfront property on Bashan Lake at 155 Lakeside Drive in East Haddam. It is extremely important that we create annual drawdowns of about 5 feet before the winter months. It would save a lot of time and money if the town of East Haddam had control of the dam to perform these annual drawdowns. The drawdowns would save the docks and sea walls for everyone with waterfront property on Bashan Lake. Bashan Lake is a beautiful lake and well maintained waterfronts would keep the property values high, which will consequently keep the property taxes high for the town.

Last year was frustrating for everyone that enjoys Bashan Lake. The delayed repair of the dam kept the water level low all summer so no one could launch boats to enjoy the lake. To make matters worse, the low water level created an opportunity for groves of cattails and other invasive weeds to grow in the coves and perimeter of the lake. Since we all experienced the pain of the dam repairs, I hope that we can now enjoy the functionality of the new dam with annual winter drawdowns performed by the town for the Bashan Lake association.

There is minimal environmental impact when the lake is only 5 feet lower and it allows property owners to treat any weeds in the shallow areas of the lake. Visitors to our Bashan Lake property are always impressed about how the water is crystal clear without any weeds making the lake very inviting for swimmers.

We understand that both Sen.Kennedy and Rep. Albis visited the lake this past summer and we ask for their support in voting the bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Kenneth and Wendy Crouse
155 Lakeside Drive
East Haddam, CT

