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TO: Members, The Environment Committee

Regarding: House Bill #5583, An Act Concerning An Agreement Regarding Annual Water Level Draw
Downs At Bashan Lake In the Town of East Haddam

Dear Members,

Please give your support to House Bill #5583 and allow the Town of East Haddam and the Bashan Lake Association (BLA) to have control over the drawn down of our beloved Bashan Lake. As an environmental professional and lifelong resident of the Bashan Lake community, I fully support local control. Over the past 35 years I have personally analyzed the lake water and can attest to its quality. Bashan Lake is well known to be in the top three cleanest lakes in Connecticut.

Local control is not a new concept. It was maintained this way ever since the original dam was put in place. However, State government took over more and more local control. This led to the inconvenience of a yearly application processes for permission to perform tasks that had been in place for over 50 years. The application process was cumbersome and lengthy and caused problems for the BLA.

With the introduction of invasive weeds to the lake, the BLA was faced with its most critical mission to date: saving our lake from being choked by these weeds and dying. The lake residence, along with support from the Town of East Haddam and the assistance of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, rose to the challenge and saved the lake. It has been necessary for the BLA to bare the primary cost of the continued fight against invasive weeds for the benefit of all State residence as we have a public access.

Our latest set back to water quality was the replacement of the dam last year. Due to delays in the permitting process the replacement work was delayed and not finished in time to reap the benefits of the massive snow melt. Consequently, the lake level was down 18 feet all spring and summer. Once again, we are battling invasive weeds as the newly exposed shoreline became over grown and allowed the establishment of species never before seen, the most troubling was the noxious weed *Phragmites*. BLA again rose to the challenge and in the matter of weeks raised the necessary funds to combat the problem.

As you are very well aware, the State of Connecticut has reduced support of the DEEP. We no longer have a full time lake manager (the only State in New England not to have at least one person dedicated to the protection of lakes). This watch dog responsibility has again fallen upon the high tax paying citizens to safe guard.

The residences of BLA have proven time and time again to be good stewards of Bashan Lake. We deserve the right to maintain draw down conditions. Property owners have invested time and money on docks that need to be protected from ice damage. They have a vested interest in protection of the water quality by treating invasive weeds with small draw downs. I ask for your support of House Bill #5583.

Respectfully Submitted,
EnviroTech Laboratory, LLC



Maryellen DiLuzio, a member
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