

**Environment Committee - Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 5583
For Meeting of March 11, 2016**

**House Bill 5583 - AN ACT CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT
REGARDING ANNUAL WATER LEVEL DRAW DOWNS AT BASHAN
LAKE IN THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM**

Submitted By: Randall Miller

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I am in full support of House Bill 5583 as it will facilitate the ongoing health of Bashan Lake in East Haddam, CT.

Water levels and invasive weeds have been problematic for Bashan Lake over this past summer, due to the extended dam repair project conducted by the State. This bill will require the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to enter into an agreement with the town of East Haddam and the Bashan Lake Association enabling water drawdowns at Bashan Lake.

If water levels are not lowered, lakefront walls of individual property owners will more readily crumble due to the ice and erosion will follow very quickly such that the soils behind these walls will end up in the lake, thus changing the lake in negative ways. These vulnerable shorelines could be restabilized, but at great expense for the property owners affected and subsequent to erosion having delivered sediment and debris into the lake. Minimal seasonal drawdown, which has been the practice since the 1940s, will prevent these issues.

Drawdown will also act as a deterrent to the growth of aquatic invasive species in the exposed lake bottom as winter temperatures will kill, or at least significantly weaken, the weeds, thus saving the property owners the expense of having to take measures to mitigate these aquatic invasive plants.

A thank you is offered to both Senator Kennedy and Representative Albis for visiting the lake this past summer and we ask for their support and that of the entire Environment Committee in voting the bill out of committee.

Thank you for your support.