



## State of Connecticut SENATE

### **SENATOR ART LINARES** THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

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House Bill 5583: (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT REGARDING ANNUAL WATER LEVEL DRAW DOWNS AT BASHAN LAKE IN THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM.

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban, and members of the Environment Committee,

I'm Sen. Art Linares of the 32nd District, and I am testifying in support of House Bill 5583.

Bashan Lake in East Haddam is one of the many beautiful natural assets in my district. The lake is a very popular recreational water resource which is enjoyed by residents and visitors.

The volunteers of the Bashan Lake Association are tremendous advocates for this gem. They love the lake and its wonderful and diverse natural species that call it home. They are invested in its future.

The lake has had challenges due to some of the invasive species that are becoming more prevalent across the state.

This bill would have the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection enter into an agreement with the town of East Haddam and the Bashan Lake Association regarding a schedule for annual water level draw downs of Bashan Lake. The agreed upon draw down level will help to control weeds, prevent property damage and erosion, and prevent reduction in association property values. The Bashan Lake Association will monitor Bashan Lake and submit any petition concerning such a draw down to the town of East Haddam not later than 60 days prior to the date of start of any draw down.

This legislation is a terrific example of how the state can work with towns and local stakeholders to improve our environment while making lasting improvements which benefit everyone.

I thank Rep. Melissa Ziobron for her advocacy on this issue, and I thank East Haddam and the Bashan Association's taxpayers for their work on doing what's best for the lake over the long-term.

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