



State of Connecticut
SENATE

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 11, 2016

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Miller, Senator Linares, Representative Aman, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am testifying today in support of SB 418 **An Act Requiring Lake Authorities To Comply With Certain Municipal Budget Standards.**

Section 7-151a of the Connecticut General Statutes establishes the creation of lake authorities.

Two or more towns that share a body of state water are able to establish a lake authority, which will act as an agent for the member towns.

The Candlewood Lake Authority includes the towns of Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, and Sherman. The Authority works to provide safety for boaters on Candlewood Lake, and to protect the ecological assets of the lake.

Each of these towns pays a share of the authority's expenses.

A recent audit opinion of the Candlewood Lake Authority indicated that they've exceeded their budget for seven years.

They have been spending an average of **\$36,484** more per year than they receive in revenue.

They are also spending money that is restricted (from donors or grants) on budget shortfalls.

This legislation would require lake authorities to comply with certain statutory provisions regarding municipal budgets.

Provisions of chapter 106 of the general statutes **prohibits** towns from contracting in excess of appropriation, which would help ensure that lake authorities to not spend beyond their budgets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael A. McLachlan
State Senator – 24th District