

Written testimony in support of HB 5129, "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A "SAVE OUR LAKES" NUMBER PLATE TO COMBAT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AND CYANOBACTERIA BLOOMS"

Please consider this written testimony as my sincere support of HB 5129.

I write to you as both a professional lake scientist and also a concerned citizen. Many lakes in Connecticut are plagued by aquatic invasive species, harmful cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms, and nonpoint source pollution from the surrounding watersheds. While these prominent environmental issues are complex and require ongoing management efforts, HB 5129 is very simple.

A "Save Our Lakes" license plate will promote education and awareness of the problems that lakes face. The bill is written so that funds generated through this license plate program will go to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The Connecticut Federation of Lakes plans to help coordinate this effort and will work with the DEEP to ensure that the revenue supports their efforts in combating nutrient pollution and invasive species issues in our state.

Lakes across the State are publically accessible and provide outdoor recreational opportunities for all residents. Lakes serve as the economic engines across many Towns, and HB 5129 would simply call attention to the importance of our inland waterbodies. I urge you to support HB 5129, and to take a step in the right direction for the betterment of our precious lake resources.

Thank you.

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