

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

I am writing to urge you to pass HB 5129.

Connecticut’s lakes provide tremendous recreational opportunities (fishing boating, swimming) available for all Connecticut residents and visitors alike. Importantly, they also offer critical financial support for Connecticut municipalities due to significantly higher assessed property values for lake area properties versus non-lake area properties.

However, Connecticut’s lakes are under attack by uncontrolled invasive plant species and toxic cyanobacteria blooms. I support HB 5129 as an opportunity to do something beneficial for our lakes in Connecticut’s current challenging budgetary period.

A special interest license plate will create an opportunity to reinforce the tireless efforts of the DEEP and highlight the plight of our lakes. While the primary benefit of this license plate will be the awareness it creates and the opportunity for education, designating any incremental revenue generated from sales of these plates by the DMV for use by the DEEP in their efforts to fight invasive species and cyanobacteria in our lakes and ponds will be an added benefit. The efforts of DEEP to deal with these issues have suffered in recent years due to limited financial resources. While the revenue from this program may be small, DEEP can no doubt use it wisely.

I believe this to be a timely opportunity to promote an important environmental cause and urge you to pass HB 5129.

Thank you for your consideration.

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