



**Connecticut Federation of Lakes, Inc.**

PO Box 5604  
New London, CT 06320

## Testimony for Connecticut General Assembly HB 5129

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 5129, "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A "SAVE OUR LAKES" NUMBER PLATE TO COMBAT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AND CYANOBACTERIA BLOOMS".

Our State has some of the most beautiful and environmentally diverse lakes in the nation. Connecticut lakes provide critical habitat for aquatic species, and they serve as a gateway for residents to enjoy the unique outdoors. Lakes are a shared resource and offer recreation for all, including fishing, swimming, and boating. Our inland waterbodies are also a source of economic value to the State as reflected in the Grand List of our many municipalities. As you know, our lakes are under attack by uncontrolled invasive plant species and growing incidents of toxic cyanobacteria blooms. We are writing in wholehearted support of HB 5129 as an opportunity to do something beneficial for our lakes in this difficult budgetary period.



*Example Save Our Lakes License Plate*

A special interest license plate will create an opportunity for groups like ours to reinforce the tireless efforts of the DEEP and to highlight the plight of our lakes if no collective action is taken. The CFL has designed a prototype license plate, shown above. We hope it will generate interest and awareness much as the "Preserve The Sound" plates and the many other plates enacted by the legislature have.

While the primary benefit of this license plate will be to create awareness and promote lake education in the State, we have proposed that any incremental revenue generated from sales of these plates by the DMV be designated for use by the DEEP in their efforts to fight invasive species and cyanobacteria in our lakes and ponds. The efforts of DEEP to deal with these issues have suffered in recent years financially. While the revenue from this program may be small, we feel they can put it good use.

The Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) is a non-profit association that represents over 500 members across the State who care about the lakes and ponds that are an important part of our ecosystem. The CFL is prepared to assist in the success of these plates. We will promote the plates through our membership and would be willing to work with the DMV and DEEP to take advantage of the opportunity to educate the public on their role in saving our lakes.

We think this is a wonderful opportunity to promote an important environmental cause, and we urge you to pass HB 5129. Please feel free to contact us for further information or to let us know how we can help to make the lake license plates a reality.

Thank you for your time and attention.

On behalf of the CFL Board of Directors:

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