



Connecticut Federation of Lakes

February 8, 2021

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Torrington

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Branford

Randy Miller
East Haddam

Chris Sanders
Goshen

CFL
Connecticut Federation
of Lakes
P.O. BOX 93
Bridgewater, CT 06752

Senator Cohen, Representative Borer
Environment Committee Co-Chairs
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

Environment Committee Public Hearing – February 10, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6384 – AN ACT CONCERNING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES’ EFFECTS ON LAKES AND RELATED FUNDING

The Connecticut Federation of Lakes submits this testimony in support of Sec. 2 of Raised Bill 6384 – AN ACT CONCERNING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES’ EFFECTS ON LAKES AND RELATED FUNDING.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Raised Bill 6384. The Connecticut Federation of Lakes represents the interests of lakes and lake users throughout the State of Connecticut. The Federation was an advocate and strong supporter of the legislation that established and enhanced the “Connecticut Lakes, Rivers, and Ponds Preservation Account” (Public Acts 18-101 and 19-190). Taking action to protect Connecticut’s lakes, ponds, and rivers from damage done by aquatic invasive species and cyanobacteria has never been more important. This need is evident in the ongoing damage caused by established invasive species such as Eurasian milfoil, the risk of further spread of species such as hydrilla and zebra mussels, and the ever-present threat of additional invasions from outside Connecticut.

The Federation welcomes the transparency that will result from requiring DEEP to report on the funds raised and dispersed through the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers, and Ponds Preservation Account. Furthermore, we recommend that the text of Sec. 2 of Raised Bill 6384 be changed to make it clear that this is an annual reporting requirement.

The Federation strongly supports the proposed language in Sec. 2 encouraging recommendations from the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental

Protection regarding additional means for funding projects to control or eradicate aquatic invasive species. The funds provided by the passage of Public Act 19-190 will help greatly in advancing efforts to prevent, eradicate, and control the damaging effects of aquatic invasive species and cyanobacteria, but are not sufficient to meet the overall need within our State. Ideas and recommendations for additional resources are much needed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony. The Connecticut Federation of Lakes is available at your request to provide information or respond to questions.

Testimony Submitted by William Hyatt and presented by Larry Marsicano on behalf of the Connecticut Federation of Lakes