

2/10/21

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

Dear Chairman Cohen, Chairman Borer, and Committee Members,

I am writing to you as a resident of the Lake Beseck community in **support of H.B. No. 6384 An Act Concerning Aquatic Invasive Species' Effects on Lakes and Related Funding**

As a resident of the Lake Beseck community, I have personally experienced the challenges that the dense aquatic plants at Lake Beseck have created. I started boating and fishing on Lake Beseck in 1972. Every year the weed population grows, which make it increasingly more difficult to utilize the lake for recreation. I have had to pull neighbors boats from their docks through the weeds because the weeds were too thick for the propeller to get through.

Despite a drawdown schedule designed in part to assist with invasive aquatic plant control, our winter temperature patterns have changed; sustained colder temperatures are not being recorded until mid to late January. This effect has allowed nuisance weeds to become intolerable to many. According to past and recent studies, in order for winter drawdowns to be an effective way to manage invasive plants, two things need to be achieved 1) the sediments must be exposed to freezing temperatures and 2) this process is effective only after the sediments have had the opportunity to properly de-water.

The Town of Middlefield, Lake Beseck Environment Committee, and Lake Beseck Association have taken a whole approach to improve the Lake Beseck system. The Town of Middlefield has invested in a Watershed Management Plan, ongoing water and plant collection; and professional consultants. Efforts include annual workshops and events that provide the public with ideas on how they can follow Best Management Practices. Several projects have been implemented such as a LakeSmart Home award program, watershed signage, outreach mailers, and lakefront improvements projects that protect the lake from sedimentation and excessive nutrients. Despite the efforts in place to take a balanced and environmentally friendly approach, nuisance aquatic plants continue to limit access and recreational activities that include swimming, fishing, and boating, which have a direct impact on property values.

I ask for your support in extending the six-foot draw down period of Lake Beseck during odd-numbered years from December 31 to January 31. This change will be instrumental in allowing the lakebed sediments additional time to de-water, increasing the likelihood of root exposure for aquatic plants to the necessary temperatures that will assist with effective management of the Lake Beseck system.

Sincerely,

Rob Poturnicki

Chairman, WPCA Town of Middlefield, Ct

8 Pequot Rd.