

From: Lawrence Pyne [<mailto:lpayne@together.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 4:52 PM
To: Janet Miller
Subject: Message for House Government Operations Committee

To members of the House Government Operations Committee:

I respectfully urge you to vote "No" on H.871. Closing Berlin Pond to passive, non-motorized recreation is completely at odds with the Public Trust Doctrine; the constitutional right of Vermonters to boat and fish on public waters; the will of the voters of the Town of Berlin; and the science-based decision of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, which rejected an earlier attempt to close Berlin Pond to the public.

Like hundreds of thousands of Vermonters, my family's drinking water comes from a public surface water, in our case Lake Champlain. But we have confidence in our Tri-Town municipal water sanitation plant -- even though Montpelier and other cities have failing sewage systems that empty into Lake Champlain -- and we respect the right of others to boat and fish on waters that belong to all of us.

I have had the pleasure of paddling a canoe and fishing for bass on Berlin Pond on several occasions the past few years. I hope my children will have the same opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Pyne
Addison, Vermont