

Denise, I'm emailing you to voice my concern over this recent charter change bill attempt to allow the City of Montpelier thru a City Charter change, to gain control over the Berlin Pond.

As you're well aware I'm sure, this is outrageous, as this was settled in the state Supreme Court that this was a public access area, and this attempt is just another attack on the taxpayers of this state to wrestle control of yet another public area away from the Public Trust Doctrine and ban all fishing and other outdoor activities.

Not only is the City of Montpelier grossly wrong in this attempt, the pond itself isn't located within the city limits, and the Town of Berlin overwhelmingly voted to allow public access, so why is this an issued that the City of Montpelier insists on continuing to attack?!

As an avid fisherman, I feel this is an attack on me as a person who enjoys the outdoors by the closed minded Mr. Kitzmiller and others that just want to control something that others enjoy.

Rep. Donna Sweeney needs to understand that as a taxpayer & voter in this state, I will not stand by and allow those that think the city has a right to control a portion of public area not owned by them for selfish reasons. Berlin Pond is and should always remain open to the public for fishing & other legal outdoor activities.

I'm also aware that if this "land grab" is allowed to happen, it will have unintended consequences that are not even on anyone's radar, such as this will open up the reasoning for other municipalities to attempt the same thing, and perhaps will force some of us that pay for licenses, and other things related to outdoor activities in this state to reconsider why even bother purchasing licenses or outdoor gear etc... if this state just wants to deny access to public areas such as Berlin Pond.

For what it's worth, I see this issue becoming something that could potentially allow the Waterbury Reservoir to become off limits to outdoor recreational activities, and other places like it, if this charter change is allowed to happen. Not only that, but I take issue with the Town of St. Albans where they've not allowed fishing in the ponds that they pull drinking water from, even though those ponds have landowners with homes on the perimeter that they're allowed access to fishing, yet the public is denied. This is not acceptable!
Respectfully,

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