



## Lake Iroquois Association

PO Box 569, Hinesburg, VT 05461

*Research, education, and action for a healthy lake*

### Board of Directors

### Statement on S. 75

Jamie Carroll

To the Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife:

Christopher Conant

The Lake Iroquois Association, an all volunteer organization whose mission is the protection and enhancement of the water quality of Lake Iroquois in Chittenden County, is in full support of S. 75. As a popular inland lake, near to Lake Champlain and in populous Chittenden County, we have been working for many years to control and prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into our lake. It is very expensive and difficult to fight such infestations once they take hold in a water body. We know this from experience. Here on Lake Iroquois we have a very serious milfoil infestation that has severely impacted the lake and is reducing the number of native species and compromising the aquatic ecosystem. We have worked hard to raise the considerable funds needed to implement a mitigation plan. We have also been through the very lengthy and burdensome permitting process required to do anything lake wide. All of this work, including the research necessary to create a plan, falls on the shoulders of volunteers. This is generally the case for lakes throughout the state. We are therefore very much in favor of strengthening the laws that will enable us to prevent further incursion of AIS into our lake.

Roger L. Crouse

Jeffrey A. Davis

Robert Donniss

Roger D. Jones

Jane Marinsky

Marian Mumford

Charles R. "Dick" Phillips

G. Robert Pasco

Ernie Rossi

Patricia Suozzi

The requirement that all boats entering and leaving a water body be inspected and washed where boat wash stations are available is very important. We hope that such a requirement will encourage other lake associations to set up boat wash stations and that this will also encourage the Agency for Natural Resources to provide more funding and support for this effort by lake associations. We also strongly support additional penalties for non-compliance and for transportation of AIS. These invasives enter our waterbodies by being transported on boats and boat trailers. Thus, additional penalties for doing this might be useful in helping to prevent further spread. There are at least 51 AIS present in Lake Champlain and we need as many tools as possible to prevent them from entering our inland lakes.

William C. "Chip" Wright, Jr.

An extremely important aspect of this bill that we very strongly support is allowing lake associations to rapidly respond to a detected infestation without having to wait the many, many months it takes to receive a permit from DEC. While we understand that it is necessary to carefully review permit requests involving AIS mitigation in order to protect the state's water resources and aquatic ecosystems, we believe the process has become inordinately lengthy and burdensome making it very difficult to move quickly when an invasive is discovered or when a serious infestation is present. The ability to immediately use bottom barriers in small sections to smother an infestation would be a great help in spread prevention. We agree that any such

activity should be reported to DEC within a reasonable amount of time. We would urge you to go further by suggesting that DEC be instructed to develop a fast-track permitting system in situations where the invasive is well-documented, widespread, and the proposed abatement method has been used in other Vermont water bodies and has been shown to be effective and safe.

Finally, we hope that this bill will also provide a strong means of enforcement. Not only must there be penalties, but there must be a way to impose those penalties. How will this be done? We also believe that all public access points should be required to have boat wash stations and that the state should facilitate the funding and implementation of such stations.

The importance of protecting the state's water resources and aquatic ecosystems cannot be understated. We fully support this bill as part of the necessary steps needed to achieve even stronger vigilance and protection of such a valuable resource.

Submitted by

Patricia Suozzi  
President  
Lake Iroquois Association

March 29, 2017

The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) is a member of The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) a group of local lake and pond associations, individuals, and others interested in promoting and maintaining the quality of the environment of, and the pleasure of living near and using, Vermont's lakes and ponds.

*The Lake Iroquois Association, Inc. is a non-profit 501©3 organization.*

[www.lakeiroquois.org](http://www.lakeiroquois.org)