



The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. P.O. Box 766, Montpelier, VT 05601

February 1, 2018

To: Senator Chris Bray, Chair Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy
Representative David Deen, Chair Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife

Re: Regarding the 2017 Implementation of ACT67 (S.75)

Dear Legislators,

The Board of Directors of "The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds", (FOVLAP) would like to express concern with the implementation or lack thereof, specifically the enforcement for violations of transporting aquatic invasive species. In doing so it appears the Department of Fish and Wildlife is choosing not to uphold this important law.

These concerns were highlighted in a panel discussion the FOVLAP Board of Directors held on September 20, 2017 with members of Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection Program, and the Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The FOVLAP directors sent a letter to Secretary Moore, Agency of Natural Resources by e-mail, followed by hard copy on November 5, 2017 outlining our concerns of the very lenient position the Department of Fish and Wildlife has taken on the implementation of ACT67.

Attached, please find a copy of the same information for your consideration as you review ACT 67. FOVLAP would be interested in your findings on the issues stated in the original letter.

With an anticipated active boating season only a month or two away we remain diligent in our efforts to preserve the health and beauty of our lakes in Vermont and look forward to continue developing our partnerships with the agencies responsible for enforcement. It is essential for all the greeter programs, and other reporters of violations of AIS transportation to be taken seriously and have the confidence they will be backed up by the Agency tasked to enforce the law when blatant violations occur. Continued prevention and enforcement is the key to future success.

Thank you in advance for your attention. We look forward to keeping communication open and ask that compliance with the enforcement of the laws be taken seriously for the sake of our lakes across the State of Vermont.

Sincerely,


The Officers and Directors of FOVLAP
Donald L. Weaver, President

Cc: Jude Newman: jnewman@leg.state.vt.us Christy Ketchel: cketchel@leg.state.vt.us

Attachments: Letter to Secretary Moore, w/ attachments dated 11/5/2017