

I am writing to urge you to consider the passage of S.146 which is required to reclassify Caspian Lake (and other pristine waters in Vermont) to A-1 status. As co-chair of the Greensboro Association's Lakes and Environmental Stewardship, I was the author of the Caspian Lakes petition to reclassify the lake and watershed to A-1.

In addition to my time to draft the petition, our group of volunteers spent endless hours educating the community as to the benefits of A-1 classification and obtained nearly 500 signatures of support for this petition. These petitions, which were generated at DEC's request, have been determined to be administratively complete and have undergone technical and legal review.

We were extremely upset when our public hearing that was scheduled over two years ago was canceled because of an antiquated (1986) prohibition on the discharge of septic wastes into the watershed of Class A waters as cited in Vermont Statute 10 V.S.A. § 1259 (d). This Statute is now functioning as a barrier to increasing protections for lakes through reclassification. S.146 has passed the Senate, addresses this issue, has the full support of DEC, and requires no additional funding.

**I can give you an example of how this old rule would prohibit lakes to take steps to improve water quality.** We had seven lake home-owners replace their old and failing septic systems with one community system that serves all seven homes. The indirect discharge for this new system is about 2000 gpd, which would not have been permitted under the current A1 classification rules. The new system is superior to and out-performs the seven old systems and will likely have positive impacts on water quality.

**I know that there is some concern that the antidegradation rules could lead to new developments in these A1 watersheds.** We do not share this concern and will rely on our zoning by-laws, lakeshore protection rules and the anti-degradation laws to make informed decisions that will protect our A1 waters. We are also confident that new waste water system technologies, developed since 1986 will give full protection of water quality in the Caspian Lake watershed when approved under the antidegradation rules.

In closing please consider the fact that unnecessary delays in reclassifying these pristine waters is disheartening to the volunteers, your constituents, who have submitted these petitions in good faith, and furthermore demonstrates a lack of concern for these lakes,

which are considered by many to be jewels of Vermont and are especially prized for their natural beauty and recreational opportunities.

We look forward to hearing that S.146 has been taken up and is passed by the House during this session.

Thank you for considering our concerns and recommendations.

JoAnn Hanowski

Co-chair Lakes and Environmental Stewardship

Greensboro Association