



The
Lake Harvey Association



March 21, 2023

Representative Trevor Squirrell
House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Rep Squirrell,

The Lake Harvey Association supports the recommendations submitted by the House Committee on Environment and Energy to appropriate \$500,000 for the Aquatic Nuisance Control program and to restore the two positions in the DEC Lakes and Ponds Program (Sections B709 & B711. Committee on Environment and Energy. Budget Memo. March 3, 2023). The funding recommendation will help to address the many years of underfunding of the Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) program. This program provides funding to volunteer lake associations to help them set up and manage aquatic invasive species (AIS) spread prevention and control programs. AIS is one of the ten major stressors to Vermont lakes, is a biological pollutant, and a serious threat both ecologically and economically to the state's public waters. The two positions recommended for restoration provide critical training and support to our lake associations and hundreds of volunteers around the state who work to improve water quality, prevent pollutants from entering the state's waters, and educate the public on water quality and invasive prevention. Further information on the importance of these two recommendations can be found in the report "Status of Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant in Aid Funding - February 2023"

We are fortunate that the town of Barnet and the Lake Harvey Association collaborated to create a Greeter Station that is open from May until the end of September, covered by greeters from 7am-7pm and have paid staff. We are one of the few or the only one to have this coverage and pay greeters. For years we have relied on the excellent staff at DEC to support our efforts, but without these positions, our role has been more challenging.

Thank-you

Jackie Sprague
Vice President
Lake Harvey Association

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