

To the Honorable Members of The Senate Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to you today in opposition to House Bill 31, more importantly, with regard to a moratorium requesting that no chemical treatments be applied to any bodies of water in Vermont while H31 is being debated.

Lake Carmi and other Vermont bodies of water continue to need your help! In 2017, Lake Carmi experienced the worst algae bloom in recorded history. In 2022 we surpassed the 2017 occurrence with blooms that began in late June and continued into late Fall. We are deeply concerned that our lake may be dying. We urge you to reject H31 and allow the agencies listed below the opportunity to complete their studies and bring Vermont's lakes, ponds and streams back to what people envision of Vermont.

The Lake Carmi Campers Association (LCCA) in partnership with our clean water partners (Agency of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Conservation, Franklin Watershed Committee, Town of Franklin, local farmers, and others) have and will continue to collaborate on clean water initiatives in our watershed. Improving agricultural practices, enhancing government oversight and accountability, ensuring transparency about current agricultural practices along with wetland, local roadway and septic system enhancements continue to be a priority for us.

We appear to be close to a resolution. Not only will the quality of the water in and around the state improve but, more importantly, it will eliminate the significant health risks associated with cyanobacteria blooms. A water quality scientist who visited Carmi in 2022 indicated that the air quality within half a mile of bloom can be dangerous to people.

My contact information is below should you have any questions.

Respectfully,  
John J. Costa, Jr.