

**I want to thank The House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs for allowing me to share this testimony.**

**My name is Theresa Perron, Glover Town Administrator. I was born and raised on a farm in Glover with 8 sisters and 4 brothers. We were taught work ethics. When we get together we often share fond memories of farm life.**

**My personal testimony about the flood of 2023, is being woken from sleep by my daughter, she lives in the lower village of Glover. Her voice was chilling as she told me the Bridge had filled with trees and the Barton River had jumped the bank and was rushing past her front porch. On the phone I could hear the rumble of rocks and boulders being forced by raging water past her house. I urgently asked where is Fred? (My grandson.) I told her to get away from the edge of the porch. She was videotaping the flood for me so I could see what was happening. I told her to move her car to higher ground. She asked, what do we do mom? I was at a loss. Do we call 911? We just waited for it to be over while staying connected on the phone. The next morning, I was up at 4 a.m. to drive down to Glover and see the damage. My home was not the only home damaged. Many families were impacted that night. In December of that same year four feet of water filled the basement taking out the furnace and hot water tank. Another blow.**

**Financial support for small towns is critical.**

Glover has a population of about 1114 people. Our neighboring towns are Barton with a population-2,872, Greensboro 811, Orleans 848, and Coventry 1,100. This list is only a few of our small communities in the NEK that without financial assistance would be devastated.

For Glover the 2023 and 24 floods caused significant damage to our roads, culverts, businesses, homes and caused complete destruction to the basement of the Town Hall the site of our Senior Meal program. This entire area of the town hall needed to be gutted and rebuilt. Many volunteers came to help salvage what we could of the dining and kitchen area. Meghan Wayland and NEKO were instrumental in getting this work done and taking a step forward to remove sheetrock and insulation and get it ready for the rebuild. It took a year to get the town hall repaired before senior meals could move back in.

**If you have your phone or computer, please type in shadowlakedam.org to follow along. I want you to see our beautiful lake then scroll down to see the sinkhole.**

These same floods had severely damaged the Shadow Lake Dam. The flood waters undermined the granite block embankment, creating internal erosion that exited out at the bottom of the auxiliary spillway. This flow of water and debris created stability issues with the dam and a 5' by 5' sinkhole was the result. It has since been temporarily repaired.

The regular inspection of the dam was conducted on **June 28, 2023**. on **July 18, 2023**, Dam Safety Program performed a rapid inspection, to access the flood damage.

On **July 19, 2024**, Steven Hanna and Andrew Sampsell of the Dam Safety Program again inspected Shadow Lake Dam. The dam was downgraded to UNSATISFACTORY.

On **July 26 2024**, Ben Green, Vermont Dam Safety Engineer, performed another inspection and made recommendations.

**September 7, 2024** the Dam Safety Program engineers performed a site visit. They examined the deficiencies, collected data, and

measured stoplog operations. They discussed with the Selectboard, Town Administrator, Road Crew and maintenance what the next steps would be. Ben Green recommended we contact Dubois & King for further investigation.

On **August 8, 2024** Dubois & King engineers visited to obtain observations, photos and measurements of the sinkhole at Shadow Lake Dam and oversee the temporary repair. This was an emergency repair due to predicted heavy rain the following weekend.

There was no access road to get heavy equipment and materials on to the site. The town road crew built a new access road. A small bridge to the embankment was built to cross the auxiliary spillway to get materials to the sinkhole.

We were advised to hire an engineer. We hired Weston & Sampson Engineering Inc. from Reading, Mass. Their proposal was to **1.** Review existing information. **2.** Dam observations **3.** Wetland Delineation **4.** Survey and base Plan. **5.** Field Explorations include borings of the dam embankment and collect information about the foundation, and soils. **6.** Hydro-logic and Hydraulic Analyses. **7.** Engineering Analyses. **8.** Alternative Analyses and Conceptual Design. **9.** Report.

Our small community has come together and raised \$26,148.27 for the Shadow Lake Dam Project. Every gift was from the hearts of a community that had come together to save the dam and the town. A dam breech would be catastrophic. The dam repairs are predicted to be over a million dollars. **Financial support for small towns is critical.**

This is only one town's story; there are many more. It is vital to support Vermont NEK small towns that are flood-impacted with state-level financial assistance. The buyout program could be a

great option for families, but the paperwork is daunting for them, especially - so soon after a flood. There needs to be a state program to provide people to work with individual families.

When voting on this bill, remember: **Financial support for small towns is critical.**

Please visit our websites: [shadowlakedam.org](http://shadowlakedam.org) for more information about donations and [townofglover.com/lake](http://townofglover.com/lake) for all documentation mentioned in this testimony.

Thank you for allowing me to share our Small Town Story.