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LD 531

Hello. Our family has a home (permanent residence) on Toddy Pond. Regarding the legislation for dam ownership and maintenance, our preference would be to have it managed and paid for the way the Orland Village dam is maintained, and that is by the town. However, the proposal of the lake homeowners having to pay 50% of the maintenance can also work. My real concern is that because most of the homes on the lake are not primary residences they therefore do not get to vote. The way the bill is structured, if the community does not agree to fund their share, then the lake homes have to pick up the entire tab. I believe that it is very likely that the towns will not support even the 50% funding since most of the voters are not on the lake. I would suggest that the legislation should state that the towns are required to kick in their 50% just like the lakefront owners. The towns can impact the amount of spending in the budget that they help develop as members of the authority on which they will have representation. In fact the towns will have a majority of the membership on the committee. Below are some key points that I offer (and others have pointed out). Many thanks for listening.

We already pay a premium in our property taxes.

Other people benefit from the use of the lake, especially via use of the boat launch.

Most of the roads around the lake are private thus not a burden on the town.

Most of the landowners around the lake do not use their property as their primary year round residences, thus a lower burden on the town for things like schools etc. I do not have exact data on this.

If the dam were to go away, then property values would most likely go way down and cause a burden on the other town residences.

Sincerely,

Dennis Castonguay