

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Mike Cerullo <mikecerullo@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:31 PM  
**To:** Rep. Bennett, David A.  
**Cc:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** House Bill 8093 - Freshwater Lake Management Program

Good Afternoon, Chairman Bennett —

I write as a resident of the Village at Indian Lake in Wakefield to voice my unqualified support of this legislation.

As you may know, an extremely invasive aquatic vegetation species known as Hydrilla has been found in our lake which is in the Saugatucket River Watershed.

Through the dedicated work of DEM Water Resource Division Biologist, Kate DeGoosh-DeMarzio it was first found and identified in late August 2023 in Indian Lake. It has since also been found in Worden's Pond, South Kingstown, which eventually feeds into the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed and, also on Lake Mishnock in Coventry.

Based on the years of experience that Barnstable County, MA has in addressing the Hydrilla problem along with the more recent pervasive Hydrilla situation along the entire Connecticut River, this bill along with Senator Sosnowski's initial legislation could not be more timely. It will help all of RI address the threat of Hydrilla both on an immediate intervention level as well as, for the longer term, in the need for ongoing prevention and management of it and other invasives.

Mr. Chairman, this is exceptionally important and well conceived legislation. I hope that you and the committee will act on it favorably and advocate for its passage in this legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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