



**Forest Lake Improvement Association Inc.  
Dam Mitigation Program  
September 2020 – April 2025**

The Honorable Chris Sununu  
Governor of New Hampshire  
Concord, NH 03301

July 20, 2023

Dear Governor Sununu:

On Behalf of the Forest Lake Improvement Association Inc., we would like to express our deep appreciation for your visit to the Winchester dam on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 following the storms in Cheshire County and the loss of our spillway. You had much to do that day and we appreciate your time at the dam.

We are writing to let you and your team know that we are moving forward in deliberate haste with our original plans to put shovels in the ground September 2024 and renovate the dam. This weather simply handed us a temporary distraction for the 2023 and 2024 seasons. Not much may be done to get us back on the water here in 2023, other than land reclamation and addressing immediate safety issues. We are working with the NHDES Dam division and other state-level units on short-term temporary fixes to restore our normal water levels for 2024.

Your visit has energized the community. We are hopeful your team may find some ARPA funds that could help us here in Winchester to complete our renovation task on time. Our community has been generous with private gifts. But as you would have recognized during your visit, the project is a major undertaking. We will continue to raise funds energetically but would be grateful for additional support. That said we are moving forward with additional funding options. We have employed simple tools like GoFundMe and others. In one week, we were able to raise \$ 20,000 additional dollars, which we did not have the week before.

By August 1 we will have plans for 2023 reclamation tasks and 2024 water height recovery tasks. H.L Turner, the engineering firm that has drawn up new design, is helping us to understand what we need and how to navigate the challenge. We look forward to working closely with the State and County as we file emergency permits to secure the site and protect the land around it.

Everyone appreciated your visit. It will help to move things forward. It is poignant to see the "Closed for the Season" sign at the Winchester town beach and to hear about disappointed families searching for a place to cool off. Our New Hampshire lakes are a great treasure and a source of refreshment and renewal. The FLIA and Winchester are committed to working hard to get this lake back online.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Danahy".

John Danahy  
President  
314-239-2081

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Johnson".

Dave Johnson  
Vice President, Dam Management  
413-374-0673

cc Jennifer Rhodes, State Representative  
Robert Buxton, Director of N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
Town of Winchester, Select Committee