

SB 837
Support Bill
Bob Hoffmann
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Oakland MD 21550
President, Deep Creek Watershed Foundation

Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Dear Senator Feldman,

My name is Bob Hoffmann and I am a resident of Garrett County, Maryland. I am the President of the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation and a member of the Deep Creek Property Owners' Association Board as well as an alternate member of the Deep Creek Lake Policy Review Board.

Deep Creek Lake (DCL) is the "Economic Engine" of Garrett County which generates property taxes for the County enabling a wide range of services to be provided to residents and visitors alike. In addition, the lake provides recreational activities including boating, fishing, water releases for whitewater rafting and more. However, DCL will be 100 years old in 2025 and, as you can imagine, needs constant attention to keep it healthy and able to provide enjoyment.

SB837 provides for the reasonable lowering of the lake level for a defined period in the Winter so that a study can be conducted of the impact of the cold temperatures on the exposed subaquatic vegetation (SAV) which grows close to docks and interferes with recreational activities such as swimming and boating. The study will determine if the growth of SAV can be managed in a natural and environmentally friendly way and benefit users of the lake as well.

You may hear some "scare" tactics being spread by those who oppose this bill that if the DCL is lowered in the Winter, it may not refill by Spring. Senator Feldman, there is no record of the lake ever failing to refill even when lowered further than SB837 mandates. One of the Foundation's supporters recently advised he has personally observed the lake refill each year for the past 40 years! This bill is important for a variety of reasons to ensure continued healthy and responsible recreational use of DCL in the coming years. There is nothing in the bill that poses risks to any recreational use.

Please share this letter with your committee members and vote it favorably out of your committee.

Thank you very much for your kind attention to this important matter!

Very Respectfully, Bob Hoffmann
President, Deep Creek Watershed Foundation