



February 19, 2024

### Testimony in Favor of SB837 and HB910

My name is Robert Sutton, I am a full- time resident of Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County. I also am the President of the Deep Creek Lake Property Owners Association and a Member of the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board (which is responsible for setting policy and rules at DCL).

I have been at DCL since the 1950's and have observed a lot of changes good and bad. Historically the lake was always lowered in the winter months, the shoreline in shallow areas was exposed and the near shore grasses were killed off. Since Brookfield has had control of the lake level, they will not lower the lake to a point where the grasses are controlled. Neither Brookfield nor MDE will comply with many attempts to request a lower level for a period of time in the winter. These Bills require them to lower the Lake in the winter.

The explosive growth of these grasses around docks and swim areas creates problems with boating and swimming. They clog water intakes in boat motors and make it impossible to swim because you get tangled in the vines. Deep Creek is a wonderful lake for recreation – the POA mission representing 1/3 of the 2500 property owners is to Preserve and Improve the quality of the lake.

Based on almost 100 years of experience, if the lake is lowered in the winter, it will always fill back up in Spring. Brookfield has no basis to refuse to lower the water as these Bills order. Therefore, I urge these committees to move these Bills forward and to pass them into law.

The environmental study included will also provide real data on the effectiveness of this control measure which will be valuable data for other lakes in addition to Deep Creek.

Thank You

Robert Sutton