

**Senate Bill 837**

**Bill Sponsor: Sen Bill McKay**

**Written Testimony from Lisa M Bender, Garrett County Resident**

Good afternoon.

My name is Lisa Bender. I am part of a 5th generation of family who owns property on Deep Creek Lake and I currently reside in Oakland, MD.

I am writing to you in support of the important piece of legislation, Senate Bill 837, that will come before your committee this week.

I am grateful to Senator McKay for seeing the needs of his constituents and bringing this bill to the attention of Maryland's elected officials.

My family owns a cabin in the Southern End of Deep Creek Lake (DCL) in an association that was founded back in 1928, right after the lake was filled with water, and is still going strong with most cottages being passed down to generational family members. The Green Glade Club is a group of 14 small cottages located in a shallow cove area and one that has been greatly affected by grass growth that inhibits boating and swimming during at least half of the three (3) months of summer. None of us rent our cabins; we just simply like enjoying the fresh mountain air, walking around the grounds, sitting on the dock, and some boating activity.

While spending summers in the 1970s with my grandparents at our family cabin, we never experienced the problem of grass growth and were easily able to swim across the cove to visit with neighbors, enjoy canoeing, and sail with a small Sunfish sailboat. Today, however, myself, my sisters, my children, and grandchildren must now go swimming not from our own dock but must head over to the DCL State Park or take a boat to another part of DCL to swim comfortably. The need to do this stems from the grass growth that occurs in our cove every year. It is a sad fact that my own family can't enjoy the lake as others do on the north end of DCL where the water levels are deeper.

I am grateful to be able to support this legislation and hope that you and your committee members determine this is indeed a good move to ask Brookfield Power to lower the lake each winter in hopes it will help destroy the grasses in a healthy, environmentally safe way. I am hopeful that passage of this bill will allow those of us who own property on the southern end of DCL to enjoy swimming and boating (those grasses really mess up props on boats) once again like many of us remember from growing up on the lake.

Thank you for your attention to this email and my thoughts I've shared about both the problem and solution that this legislation can address.

Sincerely,  
Lisa M Bender

