

To: Maryland House Environment & Transportation Committee
Re: HB0910
Date: Feb 22, 2024

I would like to share with the committee that I am against proposed bill HB0910 as it is currently written. I am a frequent recreational user of the Upper Youghiogeny River, traveling from out of state an average of a dozen weekends each year to take advantage of its unique beauty. While I am a single out of state individual, I'm certain that I am representative of a large number of Garrett County tourism visitors with similar concerns.

I am fully supportive of the goal of HB0910 to minimize invasive aquatic vegetation. My concern is with the bill mandating the drawdown of the lake level rather than leaving it to the discretion of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The MDE has stated that its management of Deep Creek Lake levels is complex due to the competing interest of multiple stakeholders. It has also stated that there is a possibility of impacts to cold-water fishing and whitewater rafting releases.

I urge you to amend this bill to leave discretion over lake levels during the four year study period in the hands of the MDE, thereby allowing the experts to weigh the competing stakeholder interests and that year's environmental conditions in determining the timing and extent of each year's drawdown for the purposes of this study. Absent those changes, I am against the passage of HB0910.

Yours,
David Millrod
4 Birchwood Court
West Windsor, NJ 08550
+1 (609) 439-6598
dmillrod@verizon.net