

Dear Delegate Korman / Delegate Boyce,

I am contacting you today to urge the Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee to deny HB 910.

My name is Jesse Shimrock and i am a Real Estate agent in Deep Creek Lake Maryland as well as a homeowner by the Youghiogheny River. I also volunteer my time to the Sang Run State Park on the Yough River and i am the river steward and access manager for American Whitewater on the Upper Youghiogheny River.

As a real estate agent, i have seen and helped many wonderful people and families move to this area and purchase homes because of their discovery and love for the Youghiogheny River. They are contributing members in the community, some are small business owners and they are all drawn by the unique experience that the Youghiogheny river offers.

I too am an avid paddler in this area and spend as much time as possible on the waters of the Yough river. I was born and raised in Garrett County and it was the discovery of this beautiful river which led to my decision to keep Garrett County as my home place to live, work, play and raise a family.

This economy based around this river is extremely unique and delicate in that it largely depends on a schedule of water releases from Deep Creek Lake to maintain a usable level for fish habitat as well as whitewater outfitter operations. The town of Friendsville's largest tourism draw is from the paddling community throughout the whitewater release season.

If passed, the stipulations of this bill could very well negatively impact Brookfield's (Deep Creek Lake Dam operators) MDE permit requirements potentially jeopardizing whitewater and fishery dam releases in the Upper Yough river corridor. This risk is exacerbated in the instance of a drought spring occurrence or if a Dam service repair issue arises, of which both have occurred in the last few decades.

There are other ways to address some of the concerns being presented by the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation that would not have such a dramatic and potentially detrimental impact on the small business owners and downstream interests relying on the river as their source of income to support their families.

As a resident, business owner, and steward of Maryland and the Upper Yough area I urge the Maryland House and Senate Committees to reject HB0910.

Sincerely,

Jesse Shimrock

Railey Realty

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