



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 582 Natural Resources – State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is providing the following information on Senate Bill 582. This bill establishes a State Lakes Protection and Restoration Program within the department, mirroring the existing program now in its second year. The bill also requires that \$3,000,000 shall be spent from the Secretary's budget on the program beginning in fiscal year 2022.

The Resource Assessment Service Unit within the department is managing the first of three years of funding at \$1,000,000 of state lakes protection and restoration fund projects. Deep Creek Lake is receiving \$420,000 in projects in year one. We anticipate Deep Creek Lake will received at least this amount in year two. All 16 State-owned and State-managed lakes are receiving some funding for protection and restoration projects. These projects, ranging from offsetting costs for shoreline protection, controlling the spread of aquatic invasive species, assessing sediment dredging needs, and identifying potential harmful algal blooms, are valuable to maintaining these lakes for fishing, swimming and recreational uses for current and future generations.

Although there is a need in all 16 State-owned and State-managed lakes for protection and restoration, there is not \$3,000,000 in the Secretary's budget to support a program of this magnitude. The department would require three full time positions - a new full time Natural Biologist III position to manage the fund and associated projects, a full time Natural Resource Planner IV to review multiple lake restoration projects, and a full time Administrative Specialist to provide fiscal support for overseeing project bids, selecting vendors, tracking project expenditures and invoices, and ensuring deliverables are met on schedule.

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

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