

February 22, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I vacationed at Deep Creek Lake as a little girl and now I am a property owner. In the 50 years that I have been swimming and boating in Garrett County, the lake has deteriorated significantly. There is more sediment, more invasive species, more "lake weed", new sewer overflows and shoreline erosion. It is important to preserve this natural resource, so I ask you to provide funding to protect, maintain, and improve the lake.

Broadening the purpose of and increasing the funding for the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund (SLPRF) to \$3M/year and deletion of the "sunset" clause will help protect and restore the 16 state owned lakes, including Deep Creek Lake. Annual appropriations to the SLPRF are essential to implementing and sustaining both long and short-term projects to improve the environmental quality and recreational viability of our State's lakes.

There are many reports of water problems on Deep Creek Lake.

The lake has been found impaired due to air-borne mercury from smoke-stack emissions upwind from Garrett County. No local action is possible.

Cherry Creek has high acidity (pH) from abandoned coal mines; this has been addressed with installation of a doser which releases lime upstream of DCL.

In 2012, DCL and its tributaries were listed for "total suspended solids" TMDL caused by erosion and sediment, a major stressor affecting biological integrity in the watershed.

In 2014, Cherry Creek was listed for "temperature measures exceeding criteria and no cold water 'obligate taxa' were found".

In 2016 the lake was included in the biennial report for "urban runoff/storm sewers" with resulting sulfates as major stressor affecting biological integrity of the watershed.

Currently there is no state funding for dredging and remediation, prevention of aquatic invasive species, shoreline stabilization, storm water run off, and other necessary lake maintenance and protection. Without protection and restoration, these lakes run the risk of serious continued deterioration. Their loss will have a negative impact on their surrounding communities. This is certainly true of Deep Creek Lake which is the economic engine for Garrett County. Its long-term viability is critical not only to property owners around the lake but also to the entire Garrett County community.

Maryland has a rich history of investing in the protection and restoration of bodies of water, especially the Chesapeake Bay. As the owner of Deep Creek and other lakes throughout the state, it is time for Maryland to invest similarly in the state-owned lakes and reservoirs to preserve them for future generations. Please support **SB0582- State Lakes Protection and Restoration Program and Fund.**

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kathy Rubel  
553 Hickory Ridge Rd  
Swanton, MD 21561