



THE DEEP CREEK WATERSHED FOUNDATION, INC
P.O. Box 376
Oakland, MD 21550

February 8, 2021

Reference: Legislative Hearing on HB 631 and SB 0450 to be held on February 10, 2021.

Subject: Information in support of these Bills from the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation, Inc.

Dear Legislators;

My name is David Myerberg, and I am President of the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization. Our Mission is to preserve and protect the Deep Creek Watershed. Our work is based on the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan, created and endorsed by Maryland DNR, MDE and the Garrett County Commission. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Advisors of the Foundation and its many donors, I urge you to support HB631 and SB0450 - State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund (SLPRF) extension until 2027 and increase to \$3,000,000 per year.

Maryland has a great history of supporting recreation on the water ways of the State but has failed to provide enough funds for the sixteen state-owned lakes. I can't speak for other lakes, but Deep Creek Lake is almost 100 years old and is in need of additional funds to prevent deterioration and to promote preservation. The State must look beyond the Chesapeake Bay to support its lakes and the watersheds that create them. **These sixteen freshwater lakes can be valuable economic assets to the ten Maryland counties in which they lie, seven of which do not touch the Chesapeake.**¹

Deep Creek Lake and its watershed are the economic engine of Garrett County. Ownership of second homes and tourism from Maryland and neighboring states are a key to the viability of this area. Without needed

¹ State-owned Lake counties in Maryland are the following: Queen Anne, Caroline, Kent, St. Mary's, Charles, Montgomery, Frederick, Washington, Allegany and Garrett.

restoration and preservation, the aging Lake, eventually, could lose its attraction resulting in an economic disaster for the County.

The SLPRF currently in place ends this year and has provided funds for the sixteen state-owned lakes. The \$1.0 million funding each year has been wisely spent by DNR to supplement budgets and to do needed projects at the various locations. Examples of the projects at Deep Creek Lake funded through the SLPRF that DNR has done with their portion of the \$1.0 million in funding for the past two years follows:

1. Shoreline Erosion Control - Due to higher usage and larger boats, shoreline erosion has become a problem. Grants of \$10,000 awarded to property owners have resulted in stabilization of over a mile of shoreline so far and the planting of over 600 native plants and installation of 120 fish habitat structures.
2. Treatment and eradication of Hydrilla, an invasive and destructive sub-aquatic plant;
3. Purchase and installation of several water quality monitoring stations with **added support from the public-private partnership with the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation**; and
4. Upgrades to Lake Management technology systems to allow better service to the public who use the Lake.

Again, I urge you to support these Bills in order to sustain the state lakes and improve them where needed. These funds supplement the DNR budgets and allow items to be completed to enhance public recreation on these sixteen lakes.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

David Myerberg
President, Deep Creek Watershed Foundation