

GCCC Testimony SB 450 SLPRF Sunset Extension 2-10-

Uploaded by: Christian, Nicole

Position: FAV



Testimony offered on behalf of:
THE GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FAVORABLE:

SB 450 – State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund - Purpose, Use, and Funding - Sunset Extension

**Education, Health and Environment Affairs Committee
February 10, 2021**

On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 600 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our support of **SB 450 – State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund - Purpose, Use, and Funding - Sunset Extension**.

SB 450 will extend the termination date of the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Program and Fund (SLPRPF) from June 2022 to June 2027, allowing DNR and MDE to address harmful and destructive issues impacting the 16 state-owned lakes in Maryland.

Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County, the largest freshwater lake and inland body of water in Maryland, is an economic engine, helping to generate an economic impact of \$360 million annually. The property tax revenue derived from the Deep Creek Lake watershed accounts for nearly 60% of County revenue. Deep Creek Lake is now 95 years old and as happens with any man-made lake, it is experiencing issues with aquatic invasive species (AIS), sediment accumulation, shoreline erosion and threats to water quality and conditions. The State, as the owner of Deep Creek Lake and 15 other lakes throughout Maryland, must provide ongoing funding for protection programs, restoration and remediation projects to sustain these important natural resources for future generations.

Please support Maryland's natural assets with a **FAVORABLE committee report on SB 450**.

Sincerely,

Nicole Christian, SON, CCE

President & CEO

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SB483_FAV_Hettleman.pdf

Uploaded by: Hettleman, Shelly

Position: FAV



The Senate of Maryland ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB483 - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - ORGANICS RECYCLING AND WASTE DIVERSION - FOOD RESIDUALS

As our statewide effort to reduce emissions is underway, it is essential that our policy choices during this critical period reflect a multifaceted approach to address climate change and ensure sustainability. We must address organic waste as a strategy to decrease emission output and further environmental protection.

Over 25% of the overall food supply is inevitably wasted in retail businesses and at home. When this waste ends up in incinerators and landfills, it generates methane and carbon dioxide, greenhouse gases that heavily contribute to global warming.

Composting turns this discarded organic material into a nutrient-rich product that helps sequester carbon while improving soil health and resiliency, and employing Marylanders. This is an efficient use of waste that contributes to our climate goals.

This legislation would require large-scale food waste generators within a 30-mile radius of organics recycling facilities to source-separate residuals. These recycling facilities need to have the capacity and willingness to accept the organic material for processing.

This bill gives waste generators flexible options in order to achieve the goals set. For example, instead of sending food waste to organic recycling facilities, generators could implement their own methods of reducing waste, such as self-management onsite, agricultural usage, or through donations.

Composting has the added environmental benefit of improved soil quality. When added to soil, compost adds carbon and can reduce urban stormwater pollutants by 60 to 95%. Soil health has been in decline, in part due to our broken food system. We extract nutrients when we grow plants in soil, but do not return those nutrients to the soil. Adding compost to our soil strategy replenishes the soil microbiome and improves soil health.

An increased commitment to composting can also bring economic benefits. In a 2013 study, the Institute for Local Self Reliance found that increasing composting programs in our state could

support nearly 1,400 new full-time jobs¹. An expanding industry for organic material disposal could make an incredible impact in the aggregate.

We've seen the positive impact of organic waste bans in other states that have implemented similar policies. When similar legislation passed in Vermont, food donation increased by at least 30%, taking usable food and getting it into the hands of food banks and hungry people. In 2014, Massachusetts made it illegal to dispose of a certain amount of generated commercial organic waste. By 2017, the state's Environmental Protection agency found the quantity of organic waste collected was nearly three times the baseline amount. Additionally, the state garnered \$175 million in economic activity in that short period of time.

Encouraging composting in businesses and other institutions will facilitate a multitude of economic and environmental benefits. These benefits will translate into new jobs, enhanced green infrastructure, healthier soil, improved food systems, and reduced emissions. For these reasons, I ask for a favorable report of SB483.

¹ Platt, Brenda, Bell, Bobby, and Cameron Harsh. "Pay Dirt: Composting in Maryland to Reduce Waste, Create Jobs, and Protect the Bay." May 2013. Institute for Local Self-Reliance. <https://ilsr.org/paydirt/>

SB0450_DNR_SUP EHEA 2-10-21.pdf

Uploaded by: McKittrick, James

Position: FAV



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

February 10, 2021

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 Support – Senate Bill 450 – State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund – Purpose, Use and Funding – Sunset Extension

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports Senate Bill 450. This bill would continue to provide dedicated funding for the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund until 2027.

Since funding was made available to the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund, Maryland's lakes have greatly benefited from dozens of projects designed to improve ecological and recreational use of our State-owned lakes. Each year the department conducts extensive public outreach and education with local, state and public stakeholders interested in lake protection and management. Together with stakeholders and lake managers we design an annual program for how best to appropriate the \$1 million allocated annually. The department has worked with many state, local and private parties to maximize the cost effectiveness of the projects (some listed below).

Almost all of Maryland's state lakes are 50 years old or older, and are typically filled with nutrient enriched sediments. As our lakes become shallower due to sedimentation they become colonized by native and non-native submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and begin to experience more abundant algae and sometimes even harmful algae blooms. The funding provided through the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund has been instrumental in many important projects, including:

- Established a contract to dredge a part of Urieville Lake (Kent County) expected to begin in 2021 to make the lake more accessible to boaters.
- Starting shoreline improvement or restoration projects in Deep Creek Lake (Garrett County) and projects pending at Hunting Creek Lake in Frederick County.
- Completed sediment quality and toxin analysis at four Maryland lakes in anticipation of possible future dredging (St. Mary's, Herrington (Garrett County), Blair's Valley (Washington County) and Urieville lakes) and preparing to do the same at six more lakes

(New Germany Lake in Garrett County, Clopper Lake in Montgomery County, Tuckahoe Lake in Caroline County, Hunting Creek Lake in Frederick County, Wye Mills Lake in Queen Anne's County and Myrtle Grove Lake in Charles County).

- Starting submerged aquatic vegetation monitoring and control programs for each lake to maximize the ability of the public to access and use our lakes, including hydrilla control in Deep Creek Lake.
- Established a contract to build and install reef balls in several Maryland lakes to permanently improve fish habitat, thereby increasing the recreational value of the lakes. These projects are underway or completed in Hunting Creek, St. Mary's, Blair's Valley, Deep Creek Lake and Lake Habeeb (Allegany County).
- Conducted an SAV restoration project to help native underwater grasses grow in St. Mary's Lake. Native SAV helps stabilize sediments, reduce nutrients, produce oxygen, and provide critical habitat for fish and other aquatic resources.

Deep Creek Lake receives a significant portion of the program's funding. As Maryland's largest lake and the economic driver for western Maryland, it is critical to fund projects that help protect and preserve one of our most treasured resources.

For the above reasons, the department respectfully requests the committee to grant Senate Bill 450 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKittrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

State Lakes with Counties Pointed out.pdf

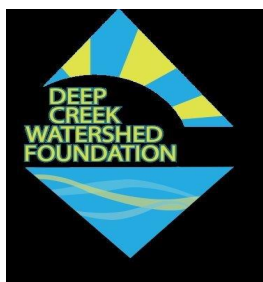
Uploaded by: Myerberg, David

Position: FAV

Watershed - Letter to Delegates and Senators 2-202

Uploaded by: Myerberg, David

Position: FAV



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 SLRPF 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

SB 450 St Lakes Protection (Edwards) EHEA 2.10.21.

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor



DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 450 State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund - Purpose, Use, and Funding - Sunset Extension (Edwards)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 10, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 450 provides a five-year extension of the \$1 million annual mandated appropriation to the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund.

EXPLANATION: The \$1 million mandated appropriation amount in FY 2021 was reduced by 10% at the July 1, 2020 meeting of the Board of Public Works, resulting in a \$900,000 appropriation. The FY 2022 Budget fully funds the \$1 million mandate, and budgets the \$173,479 from the prior year fund balance for a total of \$1,73,479 in FY 2022.

The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the extension of a \$1 million mandated appropriation that originally was a three year program.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which requires spending allocations for FY 2022 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2020.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19, making revenue predictions for the remainder of FY 2021 and FY 2022 highly volatile. Many individuals and households are unemployed or underemployed, with many industry sectors operating at much less than 100% capacity. Federal stimulus programs are providing much needed relief, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability.

The highest priority of the Administration is to work with the 2021 General Assembly in enacting the Governor's emergency Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (SB 496/HB 612 RELIEF Act). The RELIEF Act provides \$1 billion in direct stimulus and tax relief for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Senate amendments provide an additional \$520 million in funding.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
(410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**