



February 2, 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 Lake Property Owners Association.

Dear Legislative Members;

My name is Robert Sutton and I am a full time resident of Deep Creek Lake and the President of the DCL POA representing over 950 properties in the Lake Watershed. Our Mission is to protect and preserve Deep Creek Lake. On behalf of the Board of Directors and all of our members, I urge you to support HB631 and SB0450 - State Lake Restoration Fund extension until 2027.

Maryland has a great history supporting recreation on the water ways of the state but has failed to provide enough funds for the 16 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 spends huge amounts of money on the Bay and it is now time to think beyond the Chesapeake.

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

The SLRF currently in place ends this year and has provided funds for the 16 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 what Deep Creek 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 sub aquatic plant.
3. Purchase and installation of several water quality monitoring stations in partnership with the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation.
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 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 16 lakes.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Robert Sutton

President, Deep Creek Lake Property Owners Association

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