



**Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.**

**PO Box 816 McHenry, MD 21541**

**[www.deepcreeklakepoa.com](http://www.deepcreeklakepoa.com)**

**March 1, 2021**

**Reference:** Legislative Hearing on **HB833** and **SB618** - **State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund - Mandatory Funding**

**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 HB833 and SB618 - State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund - Mandatory Funding.

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.

The subject Bills would increase funding from \$1.0 million to \$3.0 million per year. This would significantly increase the DNR's ability to undertake additional projects to preserve and protect all of the State owned lakes. This is a small investment for the future of fresh water public enjoyment and recreation.

Again, myself and the owners and families of 950 homes on Deep Creek Lake urge you to support and pass this much needed legislation for the 16 State Lakes.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Robert A Sutton

President, DCL POA

Member DCL Policy and Review Board

President, Sky Valley HOA on Deep Creek Lake