



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

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FAVORABLE:

**SB 674 – Natural Resources – State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund –  
Funding and Sunset – Alterations**

**Budget & Taxation Committee  
March 2, 2022**

On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 500 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our support of **SB 674 – Natural Resources – State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund – Funding and Sunset – Alterations**.

Senate Bill 674 will increase the amount of the appropriation that the Governor is required to include in the annual budget bill for the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund from \$1 million to \$3 million, giving more funds to 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 674**.

Sincerely,

*Holly Lane*

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