

RE: HR1270 **UNFAVORABLE**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO;
ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BY: DONALD STORCK

I, Donald Storck, served as Executive Director of several organizations, namely 1989 World Whitewater Championships Inc, the Adventure Sports Institute, the 1992 Whitewater Olympic Trials and the Adventure Sports Center International. In doing so, I acquired a deep understanding and appreciation of the significant importance of the availability, access and preservation of the abundant natural resources in Garrett County and surrounding areas for the welfare of its inhabitants and economic viability.

The natural resources and related scenic beauty of this area are the underpinning attractions that bring people here to enjoy and recreate in the great outdoors which serves as the primary driver of a sustainable year round economy. This is Garrett County's greatest asset and accounts for the majority of its revenue. Any effort to degrade or deface these natural resources and beauty can have a detrimental effect in this regard. While this is the primary basis of objecting to HR 1270, it also violates existing statutes protecting sensitive and scenic areas from this type of incursion and conflicts with Garrett County's Comprehensive Plan and related Vision Statement to "enhance the quality of life by preserving the County's rural character and natural beauty — "

It is, therefore, recommended that Legislative Committee Members vote to oppose HR 1270.

Respectfully,

Donald Storck,