

Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 399

I am writing to express my disgust with and opposition to Senate Bill 399. Particularly concerning to me is the presumptuous and cavalier attitude of Senator McKay, who doesn't "have details including the construction plan for the lines," despite their potentially endangering the following areas; Big Savage Mountain Wildland, Bear Pen Wildland, and Dan's Mountain Wildland, as it "aims to exempt" them from protection.

It appears to me that the cart is ahead of the horse as they have not completed their study of "sensitive habitats and cultural resources." These habitats include old growth forests with the threatened leatherwood plant species and mountain springs and streams which are home to salamanders and native brook trout. They are irreplaceable. Once destroyed, they are gone.

As stewards of these precious natural resources, we citizens have a responsibility to protect these designated wildlands. I urge lawmakers to be consistent. If you want to attract tourists to enjoy our natural wonders, don't place a mustache on the Mona Lisa.

My sincere hope is that the responsibility to protect these natural treasures for future generations is our primary motivation.

I appreciate your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Repp
Resident of Western Maryland