

I am writing in favor of Maryland House Bill 1465, "Environment - Stream and Floodplain Restoration Projects - Requirements and Limitations."

In summer 2020, my wife and I learned of an upcoming stream restoration project — the Lake Elkhorn Project — adjacent to our property and a popular wooded trail. This began years of effort to protect the area from unnecessary destruction. After forming a group with concerned neighbors, we succeeded in halting the project, though at significant cost of time, energy, and income for me as a self-employed individual.

The project's justifications shifted over time: first, generating millions in mitigation credits for downstream development; later, reducing Chesapeake Bay pollutants, despite official local water quality reports showing normal nitrogen levels and phosphorus spikes only during storm events. Claims about sediment reduction were also unfounded, as two man-made dams blocked any sediment from reaching the Bay. The true motive was financial, not environmental.

Through my opposition, I extensively researched upland wooded stream restoration practices. The key finding: they rarely work as promised. These projects typically go unmonitored after completion and begin failing within a few years, releasing more sediment than before. Replanted vegetation is quickly overtaken by invasive species, lost to harsh conditions, or consumed by deer.

Out-of-stream stormwater controls — best management practices — are the only proven, permanent solutions for managing pollutants and sediment. In-stream mechanical channel engineering is temporary and unproven.

Passage of HB 1465 would protect communities from corporations exploiting an under-informed public, and spare other Marylanders from the harmful "stream restoration" projects like the Lake Elkhorn Project.

Please protect our streams and upland woods and submit a report in favor of SB 1465.

Links to support of my comment below.

For further context, my January 2022 comments to MDE and USACE regarding the Lake

Elkhorn Project are available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ckit1mkzno4qxx8sdercr/Comments-to-USACE-MDE-Final-01-07-22.pdf?rlkey=7kdgy5hjthmlx0ibq0iie9mfg&st;=58j1sfx8&dl;=0>



And my critique of 10 years stream restoration efforts in Columbia, MD

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/cusl33opiv7m441ib8wov/CA-Stream-Restoration-Failures-06-11-22.pdf?rlkey=0sleuemkn0vgvnasaogkh2bpg&st=d8zeqzqx&dl=0>

