



HB 877

February 14, 2020

Chairman Paul Pinsky
Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Kumar Barve
Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Chairman Barve,

Deep Creek Lake, the largest inland body of water in Maryland, stretches about 3,900 acres and has 69 miles of shoreline. This incredible and invaluable resource is located in the heart of Garrett County, a county that I am proud to represent.

Tourism is one of the largest sources of income for the area and reached an all-time high in Fiscal Year 2019. Deep Creek Lake, the economic engine of the tourism industry in Garrett County, hosted 1.1 million visitors who spent \$299 million and had a total economic impact of \$347 million for the surrounding area. These tourism benchmarks have been met or surpassed the last several years. It is estimated that approximately 60% of the economy of Garrett County is dependent on Deep Creek Lake in some form.

Several constituents have reached out to my office concerned about the environmental health of Deep Creek Lake, particularly regarding invasive species and the need to dredge parts of the lake. This is very concerning to me as well, as the importance of the lake for the local economy cannot be overstated.

I am aware that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has worked diligently to protect Deep Creek Lake from invasive species like hydrilla from being introduced into the lake environment. While hydrilla has not been found in Deep Creek Lake since 2016, the risk of it returning has not been

eliminated due to the lake's proximity to the Potomac River and Lake Habeeb. Dredging of the numerous coves around Deep Creek Lake is also required to preserve the overall health and usage of the lake. Deep Creek Lake is celebrating its 95th birthday this year, and as man-made lakes age, they need to be maintained to remain fully operational.

Continuing to fund solutions for the threats that face Deep Creek Lake is imperative, and I urge you to make this a priority. Senator George Edwards and Delegate Wendell Beitzel have taken the lead on this issue and created the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund in 2018. I strongly encourage you to give serious consideration to increasing the funding to this important program so that it may continue to assist in combating the challenges facing Deep Creek Lake.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



David Trone
Member of Congress

CC:

Governor Larry Hogan	Delegate Carl Anderton, Jr.	Delegate Jay Jalisi
Secretary James McKittrick	Delegate Dalya Attar	Delegate Mary Lehman
Senator George Edwards	Delaget Regina Boyce	Delegate Brooke Lierman
Delegate Wendell Beitzel	Delegate Barrie Ciliberti	Delegate Sara Love
Senator John Bailey	Delegate Gerald Clark	Delegate Charles Otto
Senator Mary Beth Carozza	Delegate David Fraser-	Delegate Neil Parrott
Senator Arthur Ellis	Hidalgo	Delegate Sheila Ruth
Senator Jason C. Gallion	Delegate James Gilchrist	Delegate Vaughn Stewart
Senator Katie Fry Hester	Delegate Andrea Fletcher	Delegate Jennifer Terrasa
Senator Clarence Lam	Harrison	Delegate Melissa Wells
Senator Obie Patterson	Delegate Anne Healey	Delegate William Wivel
Senator Bryan W. Simonaire	Delegate Marvin Holmes, Jr.	
Senator Mary Washington	Delegate Jay Jacobs	