

Testimony in Favor of SB 1094

To the Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

As a part and now full-time resident of the Hazelhurst area of Deep Creek Lake in Swanton, Garrett County, Maryland, for the past 46 years and a member of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, I write to express my strong support for SB 1094, State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund (SLPRF), which is scheduled to be heard before the Maryland State Senate Committee on Budget and Taxation on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 1 pm.

Continued funding for the SLPRF will help protect and restore the 16 lakes, including Deep Creek Lake, that are owned by the State of Maryland. Annual appropriations dedicated to the SLPRF are essential to implementing and sustaining both long and short-term projects to improve the environmental quality and recreational viability of our States' lakes.

Maryland has a rich history of investing in the protection and restoration of bodies of water, especially the Chesapeake Bay. I urge you to continue to invest similarly in the state-owned lakes in order to preserve and protect them for our posterity. My family and I, including my two young grandchildren, have enjoyed activities on the lake for many years. It is my hope that their grandchildren will also be able to do the same.

I urge you to support SB 1094.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger W. Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Roger W. Higgins
234 Hazelhurst Lane
Swanton, MD 21561
February 27, 2024