

SB 1094

Support Bill

Bob Hoffmann

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Oakland, MD. 21550

Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee

Dear Chair Guzzone,

My name is Bob Hoffmann and I am a resident of Garrett County, Maryland. I am the President of the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation and a member of the Board for the Deep Creek Property Owners' Association as well as an alternate member of the Deep Creek Lake Policy Review Board.

Deep Creek Lake (DCL) is the "Economic Engine" of Garrett County which generates personal property taxes for the County enabling a wide range of services for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. In addition, DCL provides recreational opportunities for activities such as boating, swimming, fishing, water releases for whitewater rafting and more. However, DCL will be 100 years old in 2025 and needs attention to keep it healthy and able to provide the recreation it does. I believe similar circumstances exist for the other 15 manmade lakes in the State so increasing and continuing funding for the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund is absolutely critical to the continued environmental health and quality of these lakes.

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation raised and spent over \$100,000 during 2023 for a variety of projects all directly supportive of DCL and its watershed. More is needed and this SB 1094 will help to ensure it is applied against some of the State's best environmental treasures!

Please vote this bill out of your committee favorably so that the money is available for lakes throughout the State, the amount of money is increased, and the fund's life is extended.

Very Respectfully, Bob Hoffmann

President, Deep Creek Watershed Foundation