

February 20, 2024

To: Committee on Environment and Transportation Chair Delegate Marc Korman

From: Barbara Beelar, retired Director, Friends of Deep Creek Lake

**OPPOSE HB 910  
Deep Creek Lake -  
Lower Lake Levels - Requirement and Impact Study**

**This is a flawed bill and should be rejected by the Committee.**

- 1. There is no need to study lowering water levels at DCL to determine if such action yields reduction of invasive aquatic vegetation (AIS). Limnologists ( scientists who study lake dynamics and management) have found seasonal water level lowering does not decrease AIS.**

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation plants are deeply rooted in the nearshore sediment and survive extended periods of exposure.

- 2. It is not necessary to adopt a methodology which impacts the whole lake such as the bill outlines. Limnologists, and DNR know once AIS are found in a lake, an extended targeted application of herbicides of AIS beds is most effective.**

DNR has effectively reduced Eurasian Watermilfoil beds in DCL. And, the good news is that these applications have had no negative impacts on beneficial SAVs or aquatic habitat, raising the question of why another approach is sought.

- 3. The State Lakes Invasive Species Act directs DNR to implement the other component of effective AIS control– the prevention of AIS introduction into the water body. In 2015, Delegate Stein sponsored a bill to require DNR work on AIS prevention. Working with Friends of Deep Creek Lake and lobbyist Eric Gally, the bill was enacted as the State Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Act.**

- 4. AIS thrive where there is substantial sediment accumulation.**

In 2011/12, Maryland Geological Survey conducted bathymetric mapping of DCL and identified 10 areas needing "sediment management". **It is no surprise that these are the same sections of the lake where AIS exists and are spreading. Dredging would substantially reduce areas which support AIS proliferation.** Opposition and delays in implementation of dredging have allowed AIS to flourish in these locations. Additional areas of sediment accumulation have emerged since 2011- reflecting the natural process of lake aging over time.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMITTEE**

**#1 Do not support this bill but in so going do not turn away from actions for restoration and protection of Deep Creek Lake and the other 15 state owned lakes.** In 2025, Deep Creek Lake will be 100 years old, creating a perfect framework for a new plan.

**#2 Request the DNR to update the 2018 report which it submitted to the Committee on status on implementation of the State Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2015 and ask for plans and budget.**

**Best management practices include:**

- a) Installation of cleaning stations and requirements that all vessels entering the lake be cleaned and dried according to lake management standards.
- b) Requirement that all launching ramps-- the state park launching ramp, all private marinas and other access points- comply with the law.
- c) Collection of a fee for cleaning be charged to cover a portion of the costs; and
- d) Any boat which has been in the lake and intends to travel to another waterbody must be cleaned prior to departure.

**#3 Request the DNR conduct a new bathymetric study to update the one done in 2011.**

This is an appropriate time for reappraisal, since the first DCJ cove has been dredged. What is the sediment distribution today? What changes are observed? Are there additional "sediment management" coves? What is the distribution of AIS in these areas? What are projected costs for AIS control and dredging for each impaired cove?

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