

JAMES BROCHIN
42nd Legislative District
Baltimore County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR)



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3648
800-492-7122 Ext. 3648

District Office
705 York Road
Towson, Maryland 21204
410-823-7087

October 21, 2011

Mr. Al Foxx, Director
Baltimore City Board of Public Works
Abel Wolman Municipal Bldg.
200 N. Holliday St. 6th Fl.
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mr. Foxx,

Last Friday's tour of Loch Raven reservoir was both informative and useful. While the mountain biking issue is important, the adverse environmental impact that DPW is causing to Loch Raven reservoir is troubling. There are two issues that came to light during this tour which I hope can be resolved immediately.

First, as you know, the fire trails are sensitive areas. When it rains and these trails are disturbed, sediment runs into the water and threatens our water quality. Friday's tour showed that DPW runs its trucks through the mud and rain, which consequently causes significant damage to the reservoir. The ironic part of this is that the city closes all trails to bikers during rain, but DPW still allows its trucks to rumble through this sensitive area.

As a result, I am asking the city to adopt the "best practice" of prohibiting its own vehicle use of the fire trails until rain and inclement weather has subsided, and the trail is dry. This will greatly diminish runoff and protect our water quality. I do understand that emergencies may arise and an exception should be granted for this.

Secondly, the jersey barriers that DPW laid into the stream which runs across the reservoir are doing significant damage. Even your Watershed Manager, Clark Howells, admitted to this. While I know that you are conducting a study on how to resolve this, I would like the barriers picked up and removed immediately. They are doing considerable damage to the water flow, and they are also causing significant sediment to back up. This is clearly unacceptable.

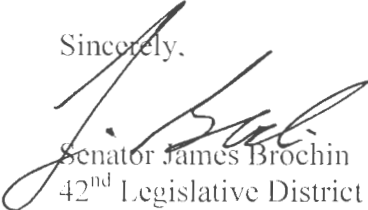
While I am not a scientist, I do know that both of these requests are best practices to enhance water quality, and I am hereby requesting that they both be adopted.

Baltimore City may own the reservoir, however it is in my Senate district. Furthermore, your ownership in no way gives you immunity from adhering to the environmental laws of the State of Maryland. As

such, I am forwarding my concerns to Bob Summers, who heads the Maryland Department of the Environment. I am also forwarding my concerns to the Environmental Division of the Maryland Attorney General's Office. Despite these steps, I am hopeful that the city will immediately move towards incorporating the best practices mentioned above. Costly litigation to Baltimore City will not serve anyone's best interests.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Senator James Brochin
42nd Legislative District

Cc: Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Clark Howells, Acting Watershed Manager, Department of Public Works
Bob Summers, Secretary of the Environment
Erin Fitzsimmons, Attorney General's Environmental Advisory Council