

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Alfred H. Foxx, Director
Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 6th Floor
200 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

February 11, 2010

The Honorable James Brochin
Maryland General Assembly
Room 221 Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Brochin:

Thank you for meeting with us to discuss two important issues to Baltimore City: water liens and Mountain biking at the reservoirs. We appreciate your willingness to listen to our concerns and, in particular, to reach a compromise on our water lien issue.

Your interest in protecting the water quality of our raw water reservoirs and the surrounding City-owned lands is crucial to the continued success of our region. Being fairly new to the Department of Public Works, I personally appreciated the history you provided me regarding your strong role in opening Loch Raven reservoir lands to deer hunting. I agree that over-browsing of the understory is a threat to water quality. We expect to see continued improvement in the growth and succession of plants and trees that help hold the soils, and we thank you for your persistence in this matter.

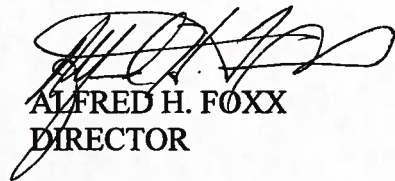
Baltimore City is very protective of its reservoirs, but allows recreation as an amenity available to visitors provided they observe regulations governing their activities. The Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, Inc. (MORE) and in particular Mr. Compton and Mr. Nusinov, have clearly expressed their desire to have continued access to the reservoirs for Mountain biking, including the single-track trails that were developed over many years beyond what was sanctioned under the 1998 agreement with the City. When we met, I agreed to withhold making a recommendation to Mayor Rawlings-Blake until after she had spoken with you. It is my understanding that the two of you have discussed the issue, and I met as recently as this morning with Mayor Rawlings-Blake to brief her on the 1998 agreement and the proposal made by MORE. I also agreed to meet again with representatives of the Mountain biking community and other partners before formulating a recommendation on this issue, and staff is preparing for just such a meeting within the next few weeks.



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Thank you for your continuing commitment to water quality protection and I wish you every success during this Maryland legislative session.

Respectfully,



ALFRED H. FOXX
DIRECTOR

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