

# Friends of Raystown Lake

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June 29, 2023

Senator John Fetterman  
Russell Senate Office Building, Suite 142  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fetterman,

We, the board of directors of the Friends of Raystown Lake, encourage you to support S.1358, called the LAKES Act, which is short for **Lake Access Keeping Economies Strong**. The bill has been proposed by Senators Kevin Cramer and Martin Heinrich with several co-sponsors from both parties of the Senate.

Specifically, we ask you to encourage the leadership of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to advance the bill for consideration by the full Senate, and to vote in support of the bill in both the committee and on the Senate floor.

This bipartisan bill would improve outdoor recreation facilities in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-managed areas, provide new opportunities for public-private investments, and give local districts more flexibility to reinvest their resources. This bill would positively impact the 18 USACE Lakes in Pennsylvania with Recreation Missions including Raystown Lake.

Specifically, the LAKES Act will include authority for the US Army Corps of Engineers to retain up to 80% of recreation use fees to be reinvested directly to the Corps project where the fees were collected. Currently, most of the revenue that is generated by USACE owned and operated facilities at Raystown Lake goes directly back to the US Treasury! Returning the funds to the project where they were generated will give local managers the flexibility to repair infrastructure and complete maintenance with funds already paid by the visiting public.

This long-awaited authority will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to join other Federal land management agencies such as the National Park Service, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management in retaining recreation fees.

Many non-profit organizations, including the Friends of Raystown Lake, would like to do more to jointly operate recreation projects managed by the Corps, but current authorities do not allow it. The LAKES Act would give that authority to the Corps to share management responsibilities with local organizations and to use collected fees to pay for the reinvestment.

The Friends of Raystown Lake is a non-profit charitable partner of the US Army Corps of Engineers in support of the facilities and operations of the Raystown Lake Project in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Price  
President, Friends of Raystown Lake

### *Our Mission*

*The mission of the Friends of Raystown Lake is to promote the responsible stewardship of the natural and recreational resources of the Raystown Lake Project through the support of members and constituents in sponsoring and developing programs in education, resource protection and enhancement, and recreational improvement.*