



## SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE ASSOCIATION

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### *PROTECTING THE INVESTMENT OF SML RESIDENTS*

May 16, 2017

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The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
2202 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Griffith:

The Smith Mountain Lake Association once again expresses its support of the Supporting Home Owners Rights Enforcement (SHORE) Act, H.R. 1538. We also express our thanks and appreciation for your leadership in introducing this constructive bill.

Many of our members, and many other local residents who are non-members, are convinced that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has overstepped its authority here in the Smith Mountain Pumped Storage Project by its apparent heavy-handed disregard for private property rights. In so doing, considerable ill-will has been engendered to the detriment of all involved parties. More than ill-will, some property owners have organized to pursue related legal issues so raised.

We believe the amendments to the Federal Power Act (FPA) that would occur through the SHORE Act is a level-handed and reasonable way to reduce these animosities not only here in our area but in other geographic areas as well.

For the Smith Mountain Lake Community, we believe that enactment of H.R. 1538 could correct the following:

- The original FPA and subsequent amendments do not require the FERC to consider private property ownership rights when issuing a license or enforcement action for hydro-power projects like Smith Mountain Lake.

- Private property ownership has become a significant source of income for counties surrounding hydro-power projects, as well as, encouraging private investment, increased tourism and recreational use of hydro-power lakes. However, the FERC is not currently required to consider the contributions and rights of private property owners in their decision process.
- The SHORE Act would protect the rights of property owners who live along hydro-power lakes like Smith Mountain and help ensure their continued role in supporting the surrounding counties and helping to increase tourism and recreational use of the hydro-power lakes.

The Smith Mountain Lake Association is comprised of approximately 1100 memberships who are interested in improving life at the Lake and the surrounding counties by working to enhance water quality, balance water quantity, improve water safety, encourage responsible development and work with our local state governments to benefit all residents. Our non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization is the largest volunteer association in the area.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of the SHORE Act. Please feel free to contact me if needed at 540-524-9220.

Regards,

Lorie M. Smith, President  
Smith Mountain Lake Association

cc: SMLA Board of Directors