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Subject: Public Hearing Comments

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From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources), [REDACTED]

Comments on Docket #2025-R-P-0017 - State Parks Regulations

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Organization:

Comments:

I have concerns about the addition of this statement: "22.7 The Division reserves the right to set user fees as determined by Title 7. All fees can be viewed in the "Rates, Fees and Charges" document which is updated annually and available on the Delaware State Parks webpage." The Division of Parks and Recreation has historically increased fees like overnight camping/lodging rates, boat rental fees, special use permits, etc. with approval of the DNREC secretary. However, if the Division desired to increase general entrance fees (daily entrance tickets, annual passes, lifetime passes, and surf fishing permits), it was required to go through a process involving public presentations and a public comment period. Under 7 Del. C. §4701 (a)(5)(a), "The Department shall, in addition, establish and impose a schedule of fees for entrance to state parks and for surf fishing vehicles and snowmobiles on said lands, with the concurrence and approval of the General Assembly." The language of the proposed regulation 22.7 suggests an expansion of the Division's fee setting authority. The phrasing implies that park fees may be set with less review or oversight, which would result in negative impacts on park visitors.