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SENATE BILL 353 – SUPPORT

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SENATE BILL 353 – ENVIROMENT – CAD TASK FORCE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIROMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

My name is Willett Hegarty. I have been a resident of Northern Anne Arundel County since 1987 and have resided in the Riviera Beach Community since 2000. I have been a self-employed Home Improvement contractor and business owner for over 45 years. I am an active gardener and advocate for others. My foremost believeth is God, my family and serving others.

Why is it, that lower income communities (Baltimore, & adjoining suburbs) are always selected for toxic pollution in our watersheds and airsheds, without proper representation, accountability, transparency and consideration.

I don't think neighborhood communities (Annapolis, & adjoining suburbs) would be considered as an alternative for dumping toxic waste and/or sediment in their area. In our community we already inhale odorous toxic air and water life has diminished from chemical pollutants dumped in our waterways.

So why not!? Select our community and surrounding area for confining toxic chemicals in a trench in our waterway and continue to keep adding another side effect of pollution in waterways of the Patapsco River. The lower income communities are always considered for these undesirable projects with no regard to the multitude of heavy industry presence. Affluent communities get municipal benefits. New walkways, new roads, cleaned areas, parks & better maintenance & better schools. So, the affluent get the advantages and the lower income get the "effluent".

It's prudent for myself, and residents of our community to request from our Senators and all involved to allow unbiased research, from the CAD Task Force, for the possible CAD project implemented, initiated and ramrodded by MPA without scrutiny from the public. The CAD location will be too close to our homes. The recreation water activity throughout the area will be at a standstill and along with its after side effects activity of the aquatic life disturbed. Our legislators voted NO on House Bill 886 based on an added cost incurred for a comprehensive study for the future of CAD existence. Now we're imploring our Senators

to approve and support Senate Bill 353. The delayed cost would be insignificant if our waterways were contaminated further by the added toxic pollutants contributing to our health, the health of our Patapsco River eco system and seafood industry. Where is the emergency recourse plan. What will we do then? How much money and time was spent on this study of location?

Thank you for your time and consideration. I for one, Support Senate Bill 353 on this day, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Sincerely,

Willett Hegarty

Riviera Beach Community, Pasadena 21122