

Dino Beslagic
Pasadena, MD

To whom it may concern:

My name is Dino Beslagic and I'm a resident of Pasadena, MD living near the end of Stoney Creek. I am concerned about proposed and future confined aquatic disposal (CAD) projects and wish for them to have oversight by a balanced group of stakeholders, including local residents. To that end, **I'm writing today in support of SB353.**

For the past four years I've been helping raise oysters off of our pier for bay restoration purposes. We pick up spat and shells in fall and raise them throughout the winter. Every other week or so, I raise the cages and shake the accumulated silt off of them and hope the oysters survive and don't pick up parasites.

You would not believe how easily and quickly these cages get mucked up, even at the very end of Stoney Creek where water is relatively calm and with minimal wave action.

In spring, we collectively deposit our raised oysters in a reef just off of Ft. Carroll. My understanding is that the proposed CAD projects this bill addresses would disturb the silt relatively near that point, possibly endangering years of oyster restoration efforts. It doesn't take much for oysters to die, I know that much clearly without being a biologist.

Secondly, that area is shallow and experiences wavy and stormy seas. There are days when you see whitecaps there. I'm concerned that it wouldn't take much for disturbed silt to spread out and endanger the narrow boating channel needed to exit Stoney Creek and then dredging would be needed to fix issues caused by dredging.

Then- what if the channel silt is contaminated? That'd kill off what little fishing there is in our creek, and make me think twice about swimming in it on hot summer days.

I thought we were behind the years of carelessly dumping things in our waterways and I'm appalled that this wild untested experiment was going to go forward without addressing so many environmental and navigation concerns.

Sincerely,

Dino Beslagic
March 25, 2024