

Marguerite Whilden
The Terrapin Institute
mwhilden@comcast.net
410 370 9171
FAVORABLE

Testimony in Support of SB353
Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force
Submitted to the Environment and Transportation Committee
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On behalf of the Terrapin Institute and as a concerned citizen I would be most grateful for the Committee's favorable consideration of SB 353. Due to the possible impact to the Chesapeake Bay, a more thorough and objective examination of the process known as Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) is urgent. Despite the millions devoted to outreach and education, the public remains inadequately informed of the Maryland Port Administration activities. As demonstrated by recent citizens' concerns, a more inclusive, cooperative, and transparent approach with the public is necessary.

Although CAD has been used for dredge spoil in other states, the logic and necessity of its application in Maryland is not clearly understood. Based on available information, CAD is not a delicate, precise, or inexpensive operation. CAD is not much different than open water dumping and as such is inconsistent with Maryland's environmental standards and statute.

As with other dredge spoil containment methods, such as Poplar Island and James Island (MidBay), CAD is offshore and, for the most part, out of sight and out of mind. CAD and most other dredge spoil projects occur in the public domain, at the public's expense, and without public consensus.

The effects of such projects are not limited to the immediate area or jurisdiction. Anyone with an interest in the Chesapeake Bay should be concerned and invited to participate and contribute. A Task Force dedicated to examine the CAD process as mandated by SB353 is a modest request that should be embraced by the Maryland Port Administration. The Committee's support of SB353 is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Whilden
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