

Senate Bill 353 – SUPPORT

**Senate Bill 353 – Environment - CAD Task Force
House Committee on Environment and Transportation**

My name is JoAnn Stakem I live in the community of Stoney Beach Association in Northern Anne Arundel County.

Describe your concerns about this issue and something personal about why this is important to you.

Potential points you might include:

- 20-220 acres and millions of cubic yards of contaminated dredge
- Damage to Patapsco River's already over-burdened environment
- Potential environmental damage to nearby waterways
- Potential health impacts to residential communities in nearby waterways and how we use our waterways to swim, fish, crab, boat, etc.
- Known impacts to aquatic life in the CAD areas and unknown spread of impacts.
- Impacts to watermen and families
- MPA plans to strip-mine the river for sand to reduce the appearance of cost in MPA's beneficial reuse projects
- MPA plans to use Category 2 contaminated dredge in uncapped CAD sites
- Harbor dredge material frequently contains heavy metals, petroleum, PCBs, PFOAs, and other toxic forever chemicals
- Environmental burden and injustice in and near Curtis Bay – toxic dumps, dredge containment facility, radioactive Super Fund site, medical waste incinerator, chemical plants, coal-burning power plants, coal dumps, sewage treatment plant, old industrial sites and their waste in the soil and river bed.
- Lack of MPA transparency – plans began in 2010, Brooklyn Pilot in 2016, area citizens not informed until forced in June 2023.
- Lack of appropriate oversight.
- Apparent lack of scientific transparency, lack of MPA ability to sufficiently answer questions about risks and mitigations, and little available public information.

I strongly support Senate Bill 353 and its independent investigatory role, independent scientific expertise, and meaningful citizen inclusion and legislator participation. It is of utmost importance that a great environmental injustice is not committed in the name of cost and convenience to the state.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Stakem

Stoney Beach, MD