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SENATE BILL 353 – SUPPORT

SENATE BILL 353 – ENVIROMENT – CAD TASK FORCE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIROMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

My name is Dawn Hegarty. I am a resident of the Riviera Beach waterfront community since 2000, and lived in Northern Anne Arundel County since 1987, District 31. I am a recent graduate of the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewart Academy, class 15 and currently a AACO Master Watershed Stewart.

In the past 16 years, my family and I have been actively involved in advocating for others and volunteer in our community. The Riviera Community Improvement Association (RCIA) is a nonprofit organization of volunteers responsible for the open space of designated and accessible community property, known as the “Riviera Walk” & “Beach Area” boarding our waterfront shoreline of the Patapsco River, Stoney Creek & Rock Creek and home to our designated Beach Area, Boat ramp, and Marina, available to all our residents and visitors. We are known for “Where Bay, River & Creek Meet”.

I urge you to take great consideration on passing the Senate Bill 353. I speak for myself and for all residents who live in close proximity of the purposed CAD and shared watershed. This is where we live, where we play, & where we eat from. Northern Anne Arundel County and its neighboring shared zip code of 21226, Curtis Bay (Anne Arundel County & Baltimore City) and our beloved Patapsco River watershed have taken on its fair share of unknown containments. This injustice can not continue or to put it bluntly, covered up. Our area is overly burdened with yesterday’s mishaps. How does MPA justify Category 2 contaminated dredged material that contain heavy metals, petroleum, PCBs, PFOAS, and other toxic chemicals and be of good conscience. These shared containments to our aquatic life’s health and it’s continued existence.

The risks weigh heavy and this area of a possible CAD is in close proximity to our homes. It is raising concerns regarding additional exposure to pollutants and its impact on our health, environment and our families that use our waterways. Particularly given our area’s existing pollutants and oversights of toxic contaminates and our high rating of cancers, heart disease, and asthma, in our area. Our beloved Patapsco River deserves more. As a AACO Watershed Stewart we are sharing important information & resources to our communities and others to change our behavior in the Best Management Practices to save our trees, plant native, and save the Chesapeake Bay, on land. Through our actions, we are all striving for a healthier tomorrow.

If we don’t have all the unbiased entities listed in the Senate Bill 353 to safeguard our citizens, our Patapsco River waterways, our Maryland, our Maryland Blue Crab, Our Rock Fish, Our Vulnerable Diamondback Terrapin, and the implement of oyster cages on many of our docks, then who will take full responsibility? When customers are eating from our local fisherman and crabbers with the threat of

passing on more toxins, then who will take full responsibility? When the stench of air borne vapors are passing through our lungs, then who will take full responsibility?

We are seeing more and more neglect, oversight and injustices. Our Northern Anne Arundel County 21122 – 21226 and our Baltimore City Neighbors matter.

I fully support Senate Bill 353. I hope this implores you to do the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit and share my testimony on Maryland Day, March 25th, 2024.

Sincerely,

Dawn Hegarty

Riviera Beach Community – Pasadena, Maryland 21122

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