

SB 353

CAD Task Force House Committee on Environment and
Transportation 3/22/24

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the CAD Program slated for the Patapsco River/Chesapeake Bay and its detrimental impact on the environment. As a passionate advocate for environmental conservation and the preservation of our precious waterways, I cannot stay silent while such damaging practices continue to degrade our natural resources.

The Patapsco River holds immense ecological significance, serving as a vital habitat for diverse species, and providing countless recreational opportunities for local communities. However, the current dredging operations sanctioned by the Maryland Port Authority pose a significant threat to the health and sustainability of this delicate ecosystem.

One of the primary issues with the program is its inadequate consideration of the long-term consequences of dredging on the Patapsco River. While dredging may initially seem like a solution to maintain navigable waterways, it often leads to devastating consequences such as the disruption of sediment habitats, the release of harmful pollutants, and the erosion of riverbanks. These disruptions not only harm aquatic life but also diminish the overall water quality of the river, jeopardizing the well-being of both wildlife and humans who rely on it.

Furthermore, the disposal of dredged materials from the Patapsco River poses a significant environmental threat. The current practices of disposing of dredged sediments in landfills or

dumping them offshore can result in contamination of surrounding land and water bodies, further exacerbating the pollution problem and endangering nearby ecosystems.

Additionally, the CAD Program lacks sufficient transparency and community engagement. Decision-making processes regarding dredging activities often occur without adequate input from local stakeholders, including environmental organizations, scientists, and residents who are directly impacted by these operations. This lack of transparency not only undermines public trust but also hinders the development of sustainable solutions that prioritize the health of the Patapsco River.

In conclusion, the Dredged Material Management Program's approach to managing dredging activities in the Patapsco River is fundamentally flawed and unsustainable. It prioritizes short-term economic interests over the long-term health and vitality of this crucial ecosystem. It is imperative that we advocate for more responsible and environmentally-conscious practices that prioritize the protection and restoration of the Patapsco River for future generations.

Sincerely,
Rock Creek Resident
Dakota Wendling