

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

My name is Keith Kelley. My wife Debbie and I have been part of the Stoney Creek waterfront community of Pine Haven in North Anne Arundel County for almost 18 years. We have been active members of the Chesapeake Bay Power Boat Association for almost 30 years. Born and raised in Maryland, we enjoy swimming in Stoney Creek, boating, fishing and crabbing here.

While we understand the importance of the port as an economic engine for Maryland, we are extremely concerned about the environmental and human safety impact of dredging and dumping of contaminated material as proposed in the CAD plan.

With such massive amounts of toxic material being disturbed and released into the water column multiple times in such close proximity to our community, creating an independent task force to research and study the plan is absolutely imperative. Maryland has created similar independent task forces for many other important initiatives like this one before, especially those with the potential to have a hazardous impact on people and the environment.

There are numerous examples where the State of Maryland has stood firm and been a leader on efforts to protect our environment, reduce or eliminate pollution. This project should be no different. Harbor dredge material frequently contains heavy metals, petroleum, PCBs, PFOAs, and other toxic forever chemicals. My wife and I believe the CAD proposal puts the many gains we've made to improve water quality and protect the environment at significant risk.

The task of dredging and disposal will be with us for many decades to come. I'm sure the committee understands how important it is to have proper independent oversight for this project. It is critical we establish an fully independent task force to study and research all options to safely and responsibly dispose of dredge material not only in the short term, but over the long term as well.

Therefore my wife and I support Senate Bill 353, and we respectfully ask the committee to support Senate Bill 353 as well.

Best regards,

Keith and Debbie Kelley
Pine Haven Community