

Please support SB 353 and create this task force to evaluate the safety of the proposed Contained Aquatic Disposal. The MPA should not be digging into the bottom of the Patapsco nor should it be considering dumping future dredge spoils there without assessing the safety and risk of doing so. We all know the damage that was done to the Bay and the surrounding waterways with the years of dumping toxic and hazardous materials in the water as well as the “forever” chemicals that do not biodegrade and are settled in the ground and layer of silt. Disturbing this as well as adding potentially toxic dredge materials has the potential for ecological disaster. This potential can ruin the fishing and crabbing industry, can make recreational use of the water for swimming and boating hazardous, and kill the aquatic life in these waterways. The risk of economic impact from the individual level to the state level can be enormous. It has the potential to drive house prices down which will in turn lower tax revenue as well. There is a significant amount of coastline along the Patapsco that is inhabited and residents from all over come to enjoy the parks, especially Ft Smallwood which offers boating, fishing, and swimming. On any day of the week along the Patapsco you will see families boating, tubing, waterskiing, and fishing. Don't take us back! Many of us work hard to improve the water quality for ours and future generations. Please make sure we continue to make progress and ensure the actions that are being proposed are in fact safe for the environment, aquatic life and humans that depend on it. Thank you for your consideration of this bill and taking steps to move Maryland forward in it's efforts to have clean and safe waterways.

Thank you,

Sandra Roberts