

Senate Bill 353 – SUPPORT

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

My name is Douglas Loup. I live in the community of Rockview Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I've been a waterfront homeowner in Rockview Beach for the past 35 years and have seen the benefits of successful government efforts to revitalize the water quality of Rock Creek. 35 years ago the water quality in the Creek was so poor that every summer the stench from fish kills and rotting aquatic vegetation was overpowering. The dredging and Creek bottom restoration as well as the aeration of the headwaters in the late 1980's has transformed Rock Creek into a thriving body of water supporting fishing, crabbing, waterfowl, and recreation. Although the solution is still tenuous and dependent on the aeration and the water quality of the greater waterways of the Patapsco River, the Creek is a shining example of how well founded, scientifically based projects can have a profound effect on the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its waterways.

The MPA proposed Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) project has the potential to have a profoundly deleterious effect on Rock Creek, the Patapsco waterways and Chesapeake Bay generally. However, although the CAD project has been in development for several years, when MPA representatives held public meetings in June and July of 2023, they were unable to adequately explain their plans and research supporting the project, let alone provide answers to citizens basic questions.

Senate Bill 353 provides for the creation of a Task Force, consisting of appointed MPA, legislative, and community members, with the objective of providing an investigative and oversight role to obtain information on the risks and benefits of MPA's proposed project and make a recommendation on using CAD as a strategy for meeting the long-term dredged material placement needs of the State. I feel Bill 353 will provide the type of government and community oversight role essential to ensuring a successful project.

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,

Douglas Loup

Rockview Beach, Pasadena, MD