

To Whom it may concern regarding Senate Bill 353

I SUPPORT SENATE BILL 353 which forms an Environment - CAD Task Force House Committee on Environment and Transportation

My name is Allan Straughan. I live in the community of Riviera Beach in Pasadena, MD (Northern Anne Arundel County). I am a boater, and I live on the water.

I have long been involved with efforts to improve water quality on Rock Creek, the Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay. I also served on the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee for many years providing advice and counsel to MD state environmental and MPA staff. I was involved in briefings exploring the possibility of using aquatic disposal for dredged material in MPA's pilot CAD project. I am aware of the challenges faced by MPA and its dredging requirement.

It is very hard to imagine how it makes sense to dredge a large hole in the river bottom, store all that dredge material on land and then refill the hole with more dredge material. Really?

It is impossible to imagine how regulators would even consider trading hundreds of acres of benthic habitat to deposit dredge material!

It is hard to imagine how it is possible to discharge "contaminated" dredge material into a moving water column without distributing contaminants downstream.

This project has not been advertised enough. There are many who live near by the planned CAD site that have not heard about this plan nor seen any research explaining this projects efficacy.

I know there are watermen who fish for crab in this area.

Fishermen fish these waters year-round.

It is critical three things happen:

- 1) This project needs to be thoroughly studied and evaluated by scientists, engineers, regulators, advocates (for and against), residents, watermen, and restoration experts from Chesapeake Bay, riverkeepers and local environmental advocates.
- 2) This project needs public visibility that comes from public discussion and advocacy (for and against).
- 3) This project needs to prove its efficacy because MPA has failed to sufficiently answer questions about risks and mitigations, and little available public information.

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,

Allan Straughan

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