

Senate Bill 353 – SUPPORT

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

My name is Alexis Whitmore. I grew up on the Chesapeake Bay. I spent my entire childhood boating, swimming, crabbing, fishing, etc. in the Magothy River and I now live on Rock Creek in Pasadena, MD. My partner and I moved into our home on Rock Creek in May of 2021 and enjoy our property more than we could have ever imagined. Our entire family lives on the creek, our parents, aunts, uncles, cousin, family and friends. My home looks directly at the bubbler system that was installed years ago by the University of Maryland to help Rock Creek become clean again. They have finally been successful; we officially have clean waterways that are safe in Rock Creek. The purposed MPA plans will change everything. There will be no more swimming, kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing or crabbing in our waterways. This is going to completely contaminate the Patapsco including Rock Creek, Stoney Creek and the entire Chesapeake Bay if this plan goes through. The MPA cannot be allowed to do this. Our futures are planned on these waterways, our future homes, families, etc. and they want to ruin everything we have here and what we have planned all to make a profit. The wildlife that lives on these waterways are going to be killed and contaminated as well. We will not be allowed to swim in these waters or fish and crab here. How can they do that and what for? I understand that they are running a business and that the waters have to be dredged, we all get that. My partner works at the Port of Baltimore, our livelihood is the port, but they don't have the right to dump the contaminated dredging into our residential waterways. There has to be better options than this and this only the beginning. They have plans to continue doing this for acres upon acres in the Patapsco. From the Key Bridge all the way down to Fort Smallwood Park. How can that not contaminate our waters? Not to mention the way that they have gone about this process. The MPA has done nothing to acknowledge what they are doing; they have only addressed the situation because they were called out by one local individual in the community and are being forced to discuss the process. They were and still are going to do all of this under the radar without any acknowledgement from the county that it's immediately effecting. I am not able to change the landscaping on my property or remove a single tree without the county approving it. How can the MPA do this? There absolutely needs to be laws put in place to avoid this ever happening.

This is my home, my life, and my future. The impact that this will have on this community is not even fathomable. Therefore, 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,

Alexis Whitmore

Rock Creek Community