

SB353 Written testimony
Carl Treff
8110 Whites Cove Road
Pasadena, MD 21122
District 3

I am in favor of SB353.

As a lifelong resident of Pasadena, growing up in Riviera Beach one block from the Patapsco River, and now living on the Ft. Smallwood Road peninsula, I have seen the worst of times in the 1960's when unchecked Bethlehem Steel pollution washed up on our shores, then throughout the 1990's when waste such as hypodermic needles washed up on our shores. Knowing what I HAVE seen in the river during my lifetime, it is a scary thought of what we CANNOT see buried in the bottom of the river today, which would be unduly disturbed by CAD. Case in point - what heavy metals will Tradepoint Atlantic dredge up out of their proposed new shipping terminal? Through bay cleanup efforts, downstream Patapsco River waters are now mostly swimmable. We cannot allow CAD to ruin that.

As the Director and instructor of a kid's summer sail camp that would be within shouting distance of any CAD dredging, my fear is that the CAD operation would add undue pollution to the river - waters which our young sailors fall into during inevitable capsizes.

As the volunteer coordinator for the state-run Marylanders Grow Oysters program covering Rock, Stoney, Nabbs, Bodkin, and Furnace Creeks, I am opposed to the potential of siltation from stirred up bottom that could affect the historic Ft. Carroll oyster reef just two miles from the CAD site. Our program is in it's 15th year of planting 75,000 oysters each year on the Ft. Carroll reef.

Just last fall the Patapsco River was the hottest spot around for striped bass fishing. And the fact that dolphins have visited the Patapsco River numerous times over the last few years is an indication that the river is a healthy food source which we cannot afford to disrupt.

We live in a very unique location - one where we can see heavy industry on most Patapsco shores, but also one that morphs into a residential and very much enjoyed recreational area at the mouth of the river. The residents of northern AA Cnty, and even beyond, that do use these waters would be very much affected should CAD turn out to be an environmental disaster. Until it is proven otherwise, I cannot support the concept of CAD and I support SB353 which would add transparency and more citizen oversight to future CAD decisions.