

Senate Bill 168 – SUPPORT

**Senate Bill 168 – Environment
Crossover to House Committee on the Environment and Transportation
“Confined Aquatic Disposal Cells - Construction - Moratorium”**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 168 in this hearing. My name is Ruth Sliviak. I live on Rock Creek and our property is adjacent to The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Park in Northern Anne Arundel County.

Our family enjoys boating, crabbing, fishing, water skiing, kayaking, paddle boarding and all activities of living on the water. We built our dream home here ten years ago and there is so much beautiful wildlife, including Bald Eagles, Osprey and a variety of sea birds. They survive by eating all the various animals/crustaceans and water vegetation in our waterways. This year was our first year participating in growing oysters to help improve the river quality. They are going to be placed at a reef by White Rocks in the Patapsco, very close to one of the proposed CAD sites.

I actively participated in the CAD BWEG Subcommittee meetings as well as been engaging MPA through the appropriate public meetings that discuss innovative re-use and the Cox Creek Containment facility. During these meetings as well as when we first found out about CAD we discovered so many gaps in the research and public engagement with regard to the proposed CAD 2nd pilot.

I am honestly shocked that MPA would think it was appropriate to move forward with CAD without doing further research. I am thankful that after citizens were made aware of the proposed CAD 2nd pilot we were able to encourage them to at the very least engage the BWEG and create the CAD BWEG Subcommittee. A group of very engaged citizens pushed and were able to present our concerns at one of the CAD Subcommittee meetings.

We provided details and pointed questions regard any aspects of the Proposed CAD 2nd pilot please see below for a partial listing:

- *Risk of dredging contaminated sediment near residential waterways and creation of turbidity in the water to in-water activities like swimming, boating, and watersports.*
- *Risk of contamination and turbidity to fishing and crabbing and ingestion of Patapsco caught seafood.*
- *Risk of hypoxia (low oxygen) in the waterways created by turbidity and nutrients released in CAD dredging – especially in Rock Creek which has chronic hypoxia.*
- *Risk of infiltration of the fresh ground water aquifer under the Patapsco that supplies wells in Pasadena from deep dredging. This is especially concerning with the depth of the CAD site and lack of research surrounding the potential.*
- *Risk to benthic life (clams, oysters, worms) and submerged aquatic vegetation.*
- *Risk to waterfowl and prey birds that feed on fish in the Patapsco.*
- *Risk of impacts to waterway home values, businesses, and livelihoods.*
- *Risk of noise during 24/7 dredging operations less than a mile offshore.*
- *Other risks of likely site selection less than a mile off Stoney Creek and Rock Creek to nearby waterway residential communities.*

- *Our community is already overburden with it's close proximity to other existing sources of pollution.*
- *Harry Jeanette Weinberg Park and Fort Smallwood park has a huge population of people swimming, fishing and recreating in the waterways let alone the public's tax dollars that have been used to improve them.*
- *No remediation plan in the event there is a collapse or escape of potentially hazardous material from the placement in the CAD site or damage to the water supply for the area and the county water.*

The 4-year moratorium on the creation of Confined Aquatic Disposal Cells in MD will ensure that the MD Port Administration conducts the necessary research and creates mitigation plans to address the risks and allows more time for citizen, legislator, and community engagement before CAD would begin to be deployed in the Patapsco in June, 2029.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 168 and ask the Committee to give it a favorable report and move it to the House floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Ruth Sliviak

Rock Creek