



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **Senate Bill 168 Confined Aquatic Disposal Cells – Construction – Moratorium**

Date: March 26, 2025  
To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**  
From: Gussie Maguire,  
MD Staff Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 168, which establishes a four-year moratorium on the permitting of confined aquatic disposal (CAD) cells to be used for dredged material management.

The CAD technique has historically been used as a remediation tool, where dangerously contaminated sediments are dredged, placed in an adjacent depression with sufficiently impermeable underlying sediments, and capped in place. The practice reduces the amount of handling and transfer needed for hazardous materials, which protects both the environment and the remediation workers from additional avenues of exposure. The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) has proposed an alternative use of the technique, wherein relatively clean material (from routinely dredged federal navigation channels) would be placed in cells excavated from sand pockets at the bottom of the Patapsco River. Sand can be beneficially reused more easily than silty dredge material due primarily to consistency, not cleanliness. Beneficial reuse preserves much-needed capacity at the state's Masonville and Cox Creek dredged material containment facilities (DMCFs).

CBF recently participated as a member of the CAD Subcommittee of the Bay Enhancement Working Group, established by MPA's Dredge Material Management Program (DMMP) to gather input from state and federal agencies, environmental groups, and other stakeholders on the suitability of CAD as part of the state's suite of dredged material management solutions. One small CAD pilot project has been completed within the Baltimore Harbor, but robust discussion from the working group helped determine that significant additional research must be undertaken before a second pilot project should be considered. The moratorium proposed in SB 168 aligns with MPA's suggested timeline needed to further study potential environmental impacts prior to pursuing a second pilot project or any subsequent use of the practice.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 168.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.