

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 Chuck Thompson. I live in the community of Bayside Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County. I grew up in the area and have been swimming, sailing, boating, skiing, fishing, and crabbing in the Patapsco River since the 1960s.

I have attended all the Maryland Port Administration Bay Enhancement Working Group CAD Subcommittee meetings, and many gaps have been identified and noted in their Evaluation Matrix:

- Risk to the fragile Patapsco River ecosystem and food chain
- 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 River caught seafood
- Risk of hypoxia (low oxygen) in the waterways created by turbidity and nutrients released in Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) dredging – especially in Rock Creek which has chronic hypoxia
- Risk of infiltration of the fresh ground water aquifer under the Patapsco River that supplies wells in Pasadena
- Risk to benthic life (clams, oysters, worms) and submerged aquatic vegetation
- Risk to waterfowl and prey birds that feed on fish in the Patapsco River
- Risk of impacts to waterway home values, businesses, and livelihoods
- Risk of noise during 24/7 dredging operations less than a mile offshore
- Impact of overburden of communities from other existing nearby sources of pollution

The 4-year moratorium on the creation of CAD cells in Maryland will ensure that the Maryland 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 River 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Chuck Thompson
7854 Bodkin View Dr.
Pasadena, MD 21122