

**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 Karl Borst and I live in the community of Silver Sands in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I moved here on Stoney Creek 7 years ago to be closer to work for the Agency. Since then, I've enjoyed many hours with my kids on my dock and my boat in the Patapsco River and the Chesapeake Bay. Now, I am having grandchildren, and I'd like them to enjoy the same waters, but I fear the digging and sinking of spoils will do damage to the ecosystem within and around the Patapsco.

My oldest daughter worked for the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center studying oysters and she now works for IMET in Baltimore. She has told me the impacts of such disturbance will be felt for a generation. She also told me a lot of scientific reasons, such as hypoxia, low salinity, and the effects on the oysters and other native creatures etc. I am also involved in retoring the oyster population by growing spat off my dock during the winter and handing them over to be deposited in the Patapsco right by Fort Carroll to build up those oyster reefs. With this dredging and depositing, I fear all of our work will be destroyed by the silt.

This is why I would like to pause any digging or depositing to study the full impact of such activity, as I believe it will be more negative than positive to the environment. During that time, perhaps other solutions could be studied, such as depositing the dregs on land to build up rather than to destroy the river bottom.

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,

Karl Borst  
Silver Sands