

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 Douglas Loup. I live in the community of Rockview Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County.

My family has lived on the waterfront of Rock Creek near the mouth of the Patapsco River for over 35 years. In that time we've witnessed the disastrous effects of pollution from tidal inflows from the Patapsco and Sparrows Point on the Rock Creek water quality, with hypoxic conditions causing toxic, foul smelling water and frequent fish kills as a regular summer occurrence.


Thanks to a number of measures to reduce that pollution and improve the Creek's oxygen levels, we've also witnessed the regeneration of the Creek and the waters near the mouth of the Patapsco, with a resurgence of underwater grasses, fish populations and nesting herons, ospreys and bald eagles. This recovery of Rock Creek has occurred at a time when other otherwise healthy waterways on the Bay such as Magothy and Severn Rivers have begun to experience summer fish kills as the Bay is stressed by pollution and rising temperatures. This history points out the fragility and diminished resilience of the waterways in the greater Patapsco region.

There are many risks posed by the proposed Confined Aquatic Disposal Cells (CAD) that would further stress these waterways and directly affect the water quality and impact the submerged aquatic vegetation, fish and waterfowl. In addition to the risks to the surface water, the CAD project poses a risk of infiltration of the fresh ground water aquifer under the Patapsco from the deep dredging. To date those risks have been only minimally addressed let alone mitigated.

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,



Douglas Loup

Rockview Beach

1318 Edna Rd, Pasadena, MD