

**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 David Maric, and I live in the community of Poplar Ridge in Northern Anne Arundel County.

My family and I are long time boaters on the Chesapeake Bay for over 20 years. We keep our boat on Rock Creek and live waterfront on Bodkin Creek, Poplar Ridge Community. We frequently sail, power boat, fish, and enjoy water sports in the vicinity of the mouth of Rock Creek and Bodkin Creek, and directly in the area designated for the CAD dredging.

Over the years, we have seen water quality improve over time and can attest that the Patapsco River and its tributaries are alive and appear to be improving. I have also seen that our waterfront communities and local businesses throughout the area take great strides and effort to keep our water clean and healthy for our personal enjoyment as well as toward the prosperity to those who rely on our waters for their livelihood.

The proposed CAD dredging will have a severe negative affect in so many ways, and I cannot see how this is a good idea considering all the efforts and energy that has gone into improving the health of our waterways. The message that we have all lived by for decades is to protect the Bay and make every effort in all our actions, no matter how small, to achieve this goal. From waterway clean-up initiatives, erecting erosion control on beaches and bulkheads, creating living shorelines, Oyster Recovery Programs, Clean Marina initiatives, No waste-dumping and pump-out services, limiting fertilization use, following best practices for storm water management and nitrogen reduction on septic systems, and restoring tree and shrub planting in the buffers and critical area, etc. All these efforts are done to achieve a clean Bay. Allowing CAD dredging without proper studies and understanding on its impact to the Bay neglects, disrespects and takes for granted all our efforts for the past several decades. CAD dredging will likely cause the following negative effects that we all worked so hard to improve.

- Damaging the fragile ecosystem over such a large area.
- Disturbing and upbrining of buried contaminants.
- Widespread turbidity and its negative effect on all beachfront, marinas, and boats.
- Negative effect on aquatic organisms, fish, crabs, oysters, worms, etc. as well as waterfowl and other organisms that depend on them.
- Navigation risks to boaters with the presence of the dredging equipment.

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,



David Marcic

Poplar Ridge