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FAVORABLE

Senate Bill 168

Crossover to House Committee on the Environment and Transportation
“Confined Aquatic Disposal Cells - Construction - Moratorium”

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Terrapin Institute and as a life-long resident of Anne Arundel County I would be most grateful for the Committee’s favorable consideration of Senate Bill 168. This proposed legislation as amended establishes a four-year moratorium on the dredge material management option known as “Confined Aquatic Disposal” (CAD). Such moratorium shall be in effect from June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2029, apply throughout the Maryland tidewater, and allow the Maryland Port Administration to focus on ship traffic.

It is important to note that CAD as defined in the legislation is not a confined or consolidated method of dredge disposal. CAD is imprecise, inefficient, and costly. As originally proposed by the Maryland Port Administration, CAD includes the mining public resources and open water dumping of dredge spoil. The State of Maryland has advanced too far to regress back to dumping contaminated dredge spoil in open waters of the Chesapeake Bay and furthering the commercial exploitation of submerged natural habitat. A moratorium on CAD as proposed by SB 168 will allow for a much more collaborative and informed approach to managing dredge material and maintaining vital shipping lanes.

I would like to thank Senator Simonaire for his dedication, diplomacy, and continuing attention to the Maryland Port Administration, in particular the dredge material management efforts

Thank you again for this opportunity to support this important legislation.

Respectfully,
Marguerite Whilden
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