

Senate Bill 168 – SUPPORT

**Senate Bill 168 – Environment
Crossover to House Committee on the Environment and Transportation
“Confined Aquatic Disposal Cells – Construction – Moratorium”**

My name is Alexis Whitmore. I live in the waterfront community of Rockview Beach, and my house is located on Rock Creek in Northern Anne Arundel County. I have grown up on the water and it was my families dream to eventually own waterfront property and I have done it. 29 years old and was able to buy the property that I wanted to spend the rest of my life in, build a family on. We have been here for almost five years. We have large dreams of building our dream home here and it was the vision we had the moment we walked on this property. The unfortunate thing is that we cannot do anything to our home including trimming a tree, changing landscaping, or adjusting anything on our property with out full review from the county because we are protecting our water ways. Yet this CAD project would cause extreme environmental damage to the exact same waterways and there is being nothing done about it. This CAD project is going to flood our waterways with toxic chemicals that they are going to try to not only tearing up but then going to put back into our water to further contaminate it. I am perplexed on how the state can enforce such strict requirements on residents but can allow a toxic waste project past through legislation without vetting the initiative with the impacted residents and appropriate state representatives.

In the second quarter of 2023 I attended a town hall meeting in which the CAD project was first presented to the residents as well as the State of Maryland representatives. It was a very emotional meeting as residents feared for the lives of their families, neighbors, pets, wildlife, and waterways. It was the first time that anyone was informed of toxic elements being relocated to the water in which they swim, boat, and live. Many questions surfaced around the safety of the project which could not be properly addressed. It was disclosed to the residents that most of the permits and project approvals were obtained during COVID and that the purpose of the town hall meeting was to educate the community on the CAD project. The perception of the audience was that the Maryland Port Authority took advantage of a worldwide health matter and secretly obtained approvals during a time when most individuals were fighting for their lives. This is outrageous and unethical.

I have significant concerns with the safety of the CAD project and the wellbeing of my family and friends. We live on the water and eat the crabs from our creek. It is no secret that there are carcinogens in the dredged water. My grandfather worked at Bethlehem Steel and the shipyard for over 30 years, he suffered significantly due to the exposure of toxic waste in the water. His medical conditions ranged from Mesothelioma, COPD, Congestive Heart failure and Leukemia. All attributed and confirmed to the exposure of toxic elements at the shipyard. This toxic material in the water has been dormant for decades. Disturbing the sea floor will reinstitute the toxic waste into flowing water that will impact the surrounding residents.

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,
Alexis Whitmore
Rockview Beach