



**TESTIMONY TO: The House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**SB 168 - Confined Aquatic Disposal Cells - Construction - Moratorium**

**POSITION: Support**

**By: Linda T. Kohn, President**

**Date: March 26, 2025**

Since the emergence of the environmental movement in the 1970s, the League of Women Voters has advocated for policies that protect our planet and promote public health. The League believes that advancing environmental protections is essential to protecting the quality of life in our communities. Our long-standing positions call for thorough planning and careful oversight of waste disposal sites in order to minimize risks to public health and the environment.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports **SB 168**. This legislation enacts a temporary, four-year moratorium from June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2029 on the construction of CAD cells within the state. This pause would provide Maryland with the opportunity to fully evaluate the environmental, health, and other long-term implications of CAD projects.

CAD cells, by design, store contaminated dredged sediments within underwater containment structures. While they may play a role in managing dredged materials, CAD cells pose potential risks to Maryland's water quality and the health of our communities. A time-limited moratorium allows state agencies and stakeholders to fully assess alternatives and develop more robust policy measures for protecting public health and environmental quality.

**SB 168** is a reasonable and proactive measure to ensure Maryland does not rush into infrastructure decisions that could have lasting and harmful consequences for its water resources and communities. **The League urges a favorable report on SB 168.**