

**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 Robert and Melinda Jones. I live in the community of Poplar Ridge in Northern Anne Arundel County.

*We are 3<sup>rd</sup> generation residents of Pasadena and the Bodkin Creek Poplar Ridge. We are avid crabbers, fisherman and boaters. We fear the propose dredging will significantly impact our community in various ways, including:*

- Risk of dredging contaminated sediment near residential waterways and creation of turbidity in the water to in-water activities like swimming, boating, and watersports.*
- Risk of contamination and turbidity to fishing and crabbing and ingestion of Patapsco caught seafood.*
- Risk of hypoxia (low oxygen) in the waterways created by turbidity and nutrients released in CAD dredging – especially in Rock Creek which has chronic hypoxia.*
- Risk of infiltration of the fresh ground water aquifer under the Patapsco that supplies wells in Pasadena from deep dredging.*
- Risk to benthic life (clams, oysters, worms) and submerged aquatic vegetation.*
- Risk to waterfowl and prey birds that feed on fish in the Patapsco.*
- Risk of impacts to waterway home values, businesses, and livelihoods.*
- Risk of noise during 24/7 dredging operations less than a mile offshore.*

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,

Bob and Melinda Jones  
Poplar ridge Pasadena