

Chestnut Hill Cove HOA

Chestnut Hill Cove, Maryland

January 25, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Letter of Support – Senate Bill 20 – *Environment – Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee – Membership*

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:


I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 20. This bill will have a beneficial impact on the continued success of the Port of Baltimore's Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) and the continued collaboration with citizens and stakeholders at the Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (Cox Creek DMCF) in Anne Arundel County.

By way of background, the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee (Cox Creek COC) was statutorily established to oversee the implementation of the Cox Creek DMCF and provides advice to the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) regarding the expansion and operation of the facility and the potential impacts it may have on our nearby communities. Senate Bill 20 would amend the composition and responsibilities of the Cox Creek COC to replace inactive or obsolete member entities and update the responsibilities of the committee to allow for more coordination and collaboration with key stakeholders in northern Anne Arundel County.

The management of dredged material is complex. To support this effort, the DMMP leverages a series of citizen and stakeholder oversight and advisory committees that assist in the implementation of the program. Within the DMMP, the Cox Creek COC has provided invaluable recommendations to the MPA, including the preservation of capacity in the DMCF for northern Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works maintenance dredged material, the installation of navigation aids in the Cox Creek channel, and the construction of a walking trail around the 100+ acre conservation easement and the Swan Creek wetland area adjacent to the DMCF. The design of the Swan Creek Nature Trail, a Cox Creek COC-recommended community enhancement, is expected to be completed in 2025.

The Cox Creek COC is a crucial component of the Port's dredging program and provides a comprehensive approach to stakeholder collaboration to lead to equitably beneficial outcomes for all Marylanders for these reasons, I respectfully request the committee grant Senate Bill 20 a favorable report.

Respectfully,


Gary Gakenheimer
President Chestnut Hill Cove HOA



Professional Community Management, Inc.
Millersville, MD 21108
400 Serendipity Drive
Phone: (410) 721-0777
Phone: (301) 261-0777
Fax: (410) 721-4854
www.procomgt.com

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