

Testimony in support of HB 886

Thank you Delegate Chisolm for sponsoring HB 886 on behalf of your constituents in District 31.

I am here today to testify in favor of HB 886 and the creation of a task force to study any ill effects Confined Aquatic Disposal may have on our waterways.

As a lifelong resident of Pasadena, first growing up in Riviera Beach one block from the Patapsco River, and now living on the Ft. Smallwood Road peninsula, I have seen the worst of times in the 1960's when unchecked Bethlehem Steel pollution washed up on our shores, then throughout the 1990's when illegally discarded incinerator waste such as hypodermic needles washed up on our shores. Knowing what I HAVE seen in the river during my lifetime, it is a scary thought of what we CANNOT see buried in the bottom of the river today, which would be unduly disturbed with CAD. I am happy to say that through bay cleanup efforts my home waters in and near Rock Creek are mostly swimmable. We cannot allow CAD to reverse that.

As the Director and instructor of a kid's summer sail camp that would be within shouting distance of any dredging, I am opposed to the potential dirtying of our waters - waters which our young sailors fall into during inevitable capsize. Our program already closely monitors local rainfall and uses the 48 hour rule after heavy rain events to avoid water contact. My fear is an imbalance of the CAD operation would add undue pollution to the precarious water quality balance we already must monitor.

As the local coordinator for the state-run Marylanders Grow Oysters program covering Rock, Stoney, Nabbs and Furnace Creeks, I am opposed to the potential of siltation from stirred up bottom that could affect the historic Ft. Carroll oyster reef less than two miles away from the dredge site. Our program is in it's 15th year of annually planting about 75,000 adult oysters on the Ft. Carroll reef.

I am a seasoned boater, kayaker, sailor, fisherman, and crabber and these are my home waters that will be affected by CAD. Just last fall the Patapsco was the hottest spot around for striped bass fishing. And the fact that dolphins have visited us numerous times over the last few years is an indication that the river is a healthy food source which we cannot afford to disrupt.

We live in a very unique location - one where we can see heavy industry on many Patapsco shores, but also one that morphs into a residential and very much enjoyed recreational area at the mouth of the river. The residents of northern AA Cnty that do use these local waters would be very much affected should CAD turn out to be an environmental disaster. Until it is proven otherwise, I cannot support the concept of CAD and I support HB 886 which would add transparency and more citizen oversight to future CAD decisions.

Testimony submitted by:
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