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House Bill 886 – SUPPORT

**House Bill 886 – Environment - CAD Task Force
House Committee on Environment and Transportation
February 23, 2024**

My name is Brooke Hurman, and I live in the waterfront community of Stoney Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County. I have lived in the community with my now-teenage daughter for approximately 4 years, though I have been a resident of Northern Anne Arundel County since before she was born. I'm an active community member, and coach youth soccer, run, and am very involved with volunteer work in the area. Additionally, I serve on the volunteer-run Board of Directors of my community association, and have for several years.

When the issue of CAD dumping of contaminated dredge material was brought to my attention initially, I was concerned, but sought to learn more. I attended the multi-community information meeting, which furthered my concern. The experts brought to the stage could not speak to the safety of the material, the ability for an uncapped hole to contain contaminants, nor any case studies that were similar to the area they were planning for our community. Each of the case studies that they referenced, in fact, either involved far calmer waters or non-residential areas. As someone who kayaks, and someone who has children and dogs who swim in these waters, I had clear reason for concern for all of our safety.

As a representative of our community association, I was approached by several community members with similar concerns. Our community has children, pets, and people who make a living using these waters, all of whom would be impacted if unsafe conditions were to be created as a result of this CAD site. Understanding why this location was chosen and the potential impact on our community's safety was key, and I have not yet been assured in any way that the proposed CAD site is safe for our community. In fact, it seems that dumping contaminated material in an area that is both nearby a residential area and quite turbid is materially unsafe.

Creating a task force comprised of independent members, not MPA representatives and their contractors, seems like a start to ensuring safety. Adding in members who do not hold a financial interest in getting this CAD site completed ensures a balanced and fair approach to the project. Allowing those who have community and resident safety in mind to join will allow a well-rounded evaluation and planning process. Ultimately, I hope that this potential CAD site is abandoned for a more appropriate site that will not impact residential safety, and allowing those who have no financial stake in this matter to be part of the process will ensure that this occurs.

It is important that the task force proposed in House Bill 886 is moved into legislation. It's important the task force has independent science experts, impacted citizens, and watermen in its membership. It's also important that the task force has meaningful bidirectional

interactions with impacted communities in North Anne Arundel County and with our legislative representatives.

Sincerely,

Brooke Hurman

Stoney Beach