

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) of dredge material by the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) in the Patapsco River near Stoney Creek and Rock Creek. As a resident of this community, I am gravely worried about the potential environmental and health impacts of such an undertaking.

The legislation being championed by our state legislators, Senators Simonaire, Chisholm, Munoz, and Kipke, to establish an independent task force to investigate and make recommendations on this matter is crucial. Without this legislation, the MPA may proceed with its plans to dump dredge material contaminated with heavy metals, petroleum, PFAs, and other harmful substances into our waterways.

MPA's track record and approach to this project are deeply troubling. Their emphasis on marketing over sound science, as evidenced by their inability to answer detailed questions and address risk assessment and mitigation concerns, is alarming. It seems their primary concern is cost-effectiveness rather than the well-being of our communities and the environment.

Dumping dredge material without proper containment measures or consideration for the turbulent nature of the Patapsco River poses a significant threat to aquatic life, recreational activities, and public health. The potential long-term consequences of this action on our waterways and the organisms that inhabit them cannot be understated.

In conclusion, I urge our esteemed state delegates to vote in favor of HB 886 and support the establishment of an independent task force to investigate and make recommendations regarding the Confined Aquatic Disposal project. Our community's well-being and the preservation of the Patapsco waterways depend on your decisive action. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Emily Hall