

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing with a sense of urgency and deep concern 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 alarmed by the potential dire consequences this project may have on our public health and environment.

The legislation advocated by our state legislators, Senators Simonaire, Chisholm, Munoz, and Kipke, to establish an independent task force to thoroughly investigate and provide recommendations on this matter is not merely crucial; it is imperative. Without this legislative action, the MPA may recklessly proceed with dumping dredge material contaminated with heavy metals, petroleum, PFAs, and other toxic substances into our waterways, jeopardizing the health and safety of our communities.

MPA's blatant disregard for sound scientific practices and its prioritization of profit over public health is profoundly troubling. Their failure to address crucial risk assessment and mitigation concerns demonstrates a callous indifference to the well-being of residents who rely on these waterways for recreation and sustenance.

Dumping dredge material without adequate containment measures in place poses an immediate and significant threat to public health. The release of harmful contaminants into our waterways could lead to devastating consequences for aquatic life and human health alike. The potential long-term ramifications of this reckless action cannot be overstated.

In conclusion, I urge our state delegates to take decisive action by voting in favor of HB 886 and supporting the establishment of an independent task force to investigate the Confined Aquatic Disposal project. Our community's health and well-being hang in the balance, and it is imperative that our elected officials prioritize public safety over corporate interests. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Keller