

02/21/2024

House Bill 886 Environmental CAD Task Force-SUPPORT

I have grave concerns related to the CAD project.

It is vitally important to myself, Patricia Hoffman, and my family, Wayne Hoffman Anthony Ferrara and Sara Ferrara, that the task force proposed in House Bill 886 is moved into legislation.

The CAD project raises MANY concerns, both the physical safety of those who utilize the waterways (swimming, fishing, crabbing, boating, tubing, jet ski-as we are likely to come into contact with contaminated water) and for the health of the ecosystem.

I am a Nurse Practitioner and the thought of the potential contamination of our waterways from the waste of the Baltimore Harbor scares me-the medical consequences of this type of exposure has NOT been evaluated. Is the State willing to accept and be responsible for the risk and injury to human life? Besides the risk of direct contact, has the risk of consuming food from the contaminated waterways been studied? We eat crabs and fish caught in these affected waterways.

There has been strong community effort in improving the health of our local waterways. Personally, we have been raising oysters to help build oysters reefs as well as building our own vertical oyster reefs off our dock. Are there studies to PROOVE that the CAD project will not harm the fragile ecosystem? Common sense shows it is going to have a negative affect.

The disruption of the ecosystem also has potentials of financial hardships as there are many in our community support ourselves through water activities. Examples spread far beyond the crabber and fishermen. One example is my husband. He owns a tackle business. If due to disruption/safety concerns in the local waterways, sales will diminish. What about the local charters, crabbers, ski rentals etc.

It is important that the task force has independent science experts, impacted citizens, impacted businessmen and watermen in its memberships. It is also important that the task force has meaningful bidirectional interactions with the impacted communities in North Anne Arundel County and with our legislative representatives.

Sincerely,  
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