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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 Dawn Hegarty. I am a resident of the Riviera Beach waterfront community since 2000 in Northern Anne Arundel County and a certified master watershed steward. In the past 16 years, my family & I have been actively involved in advocating for others and volunteering in our Community Association. RCIA is responsible for our open space of designated and accessible community property known as the “Riviera Walk” bordering our waterfront shoreline of the Patapsco River, Stoney Creek & Rock Creek and home to our designated beach area, boat ramp, and marina, available to all our residents and visitors. We are known for “Where Bay, River & Creek Meet”.

I urge you, along with the House Committee on Environment and Transportation to support House Bill 886. The proposed CAD site will be approximately 1 mile off our shores of Riviera Beach. It raises concerns regarding additional exposures to pollutants and its impact on our health and biodiversity.

Despite Maryland Port Authority’s outreach & educational resources outlined in its very own report. The risks remain alarming, particularly given our area’s existing pollutants and high percent of health issues, including cancers, heart disease, & asthma, in our area alone.

It is disheartening to witness the injustices to our communities and the watersheds wellbeing in the selection of the possible CAD site, considering our area is already inundated with toxin contaminates from the heavy presents of big industries. We deserve better protection under the existing environmental regulations such as the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act.

Our Patapsco River is one of Maryland’s ten major Chesapeake Bay tributary basins, and is listed on the MDE’s impaired water list. The House Bill 886 Cad Task Force is imperative to be inclusive in the unbiased entities listed in the bill to independently ensure our continued efforts of safe practices and accountability are extended to the health of all.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my concerns.

Concerned Citizen,

Dawn Hegarty