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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 Patrick Smulsky and I'm a resident of Stoney Beach, which lies along the shoreline of the Patapsco River. My wife and I have been residents since March of 2020. As avid boaters, we moved to this location to maximize our time on the water. During the boating season, we spend several days per week enjoying our time on the Patapsco River and the many creeks that feed it. Our 2 sons, daughters-in-law and grandsons are regulars as well.

I understand the importance of keeping the shipping lanes open. But I'm troubled by the fact that the MPA cannot or refuses to provide simple answers when asked about the safety of this project. They fail to answer questions with regard to the reasoning behind the choosing of this location. Also, they dance around the subject when asked about alternate locations. Most likely, you've already seen the very brief animated video that shows an overly simplified and unrealistic plan with how this project is to be completed.

The MPA's lack of detail with regard to this matter is rather offensive. I don't feel comfortable with the idea of the MPA carrying out this project without further studies and oversight by an INDEPENDENT group. They have failed to address issues such as environmental safety, human health, and potential personal concerns of anybody affected.

I provide you with this very simple analogy. The current MPA plans call for a very large hole to be dug, then dredge the shipping channel, and finally dump the dredge in the previously dug hole. That's 3 times that the contaminated soil of the Patapsco river would have to be disturbed. Which means, 3 times the amount of toxins are being released into the constantly changing tidal current and spread around to an even larger portion of the river and subsequent tributaries.

It is important that the task force proposed in House Bill 886 is moved into legislation. It's important that this task force consist of independent science

experts, impacted citizens, and watermen in its membership. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Patrick Smulsky

Community of Stoney Beach