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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 George Wendling, I live on the water on Rock Creek, Northern Anne Arundel County. My wife and I have dreamed of living on the water since 1985. We were finally able to move on the water in Rock Creek 2017. We have enjoyed the water since we were little. We have a beautiful house on the water and enjoy boating, swimming, crabbing off our pier, fishing off our pier, paddle boarding, etc.

My father-in-law, William Polczynski, worked at Bethlehem Steel and the shipyard for over 30 years. He suffered significantly due to the exposure of toxic waste in the water. His medical conditions ranged from Mesothelioma, COPD, Congestive Heart failure and leukemia. All attributed and confirmed to the exposure of toxic elements at the shipyard. This toxic material in the water has been dormant for decades. Disturbing the sea floor will reinstitute the toxic waste into the flowing water that will impact the surrounding residents.

My concerns with the CAD program are the risks associated with the dredge that is highly toxic and contaminated with forever chemicals that are carcinogenic. For decades the water in this area have been contaminated due to sewage overflow. We are finally seeing improvement in the waterways.

It is very important that an independent CAD task force oversee the environmental safety, human health, sea life and the impact on waterman who make a living crabbing and fishing. I do not agree with anyone who is associated with the MPA or their contactors. They will not have the best interest of the people who live on the water and surrounding areas.

It is important that the task force proposed in House Bill 886 is moved into legislation. It's important that the task force have independent science experts, impacted citizens, and watermen in its membership. It's also important that the task force has meaningful bidirectional interactions with impacted communities in North Anne Arundel County and with our legislative representatives.

Sincerely,

George Wendling
Rock Creek Community