

RENEE BEAR EMAIL: Therbears@verizon.net

HOUSE BILL 886 – SUPPORT

House Bill 886 – Environment – CAD Task Force
House Committee on Environment and Transportation
February 23, 2024

My name is Renee Bear, I am a life long resident of Anne Arundel County. I have lived in neighborhoods on Rock Creek, a waterfront home on the Patapsco River, and have been a resident of Severna Park for the last 25 years, now living in a waterfront home on the Magothy River. For over 50 years, I have witnessed first hand the effects pollution and toxic materials have had on our waterways. I have swam, fished, crabbed and boated in these waters my entire life. Having to take care not to come in contact with the water, after sewage spills, when it rains, or during the parts of summer, when the water has been deemed not safe to touch. I have witnessed fish kills and other effects on our marine life. My family members, including my children, have been forced to take antibiotics after exposure to the water, or when having cuts that become contaminated. I am very concerned for the future of the bay and the surrounding areas, it's marine life (which many depend on), and the economic effects that this would have on our state, if this toxic waste is allowed to be this widely disturbed, redistributing it into our flowing waters. Our children and the future of this beautiful area that we call home is depending on all of us to make the right choices moving forward.

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, marine life and the impact on watermen who make a living crabbing and fishing. I do not agree with the individuals associated with the MPA or their contractors, as they do not have the best interest of the people who live here in mind when making decisions.

It is imperative 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 Anne Arundel County and with our legislative representatives.

Sincerely,
Renee Bear
Anne Arundel County Resident