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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 Robert G. Pozgar. I live on Rock Creek in Northern Anne Arundel County. I purchased my property in 2003 and finished building my home in 2005. In early 2006 with the cooperation of Ft Smallwood Park, I used personal funds to remove 38 sunken abandoned boats out of Rock Creek. My main goal in doing this was to stop the contamination avoiding further deterioration of the water. As expected, I have seen positive changes to the water and environment over the past years. Since I have lived in the area I have enjoyed all the beautiful wildlife that has come back into the area including Osprey, Eagles and Hawks.

As we move forward, I am extremely concerned about the risks and impact to the area regarding the Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) dumping of contaminated dredge material. When I was building my home, I decided to take my senior managers from my company in Annapolis on a fishing trip on the Patapsco. It was a sad day because every fish that was caught had canker sores and were very unhealthy and certainly not edible. I would hate to see this occur again with the increased contamination that will most certainly occur with this CAD project. The dredged materials that are coming from the shipping channels will have had all sorts of chemicals including forever chemicals that will then be placed in an area that is "clean" with viable sand and rock that is supporting the marine life that has finally made a come back after years of decline.

It is very important that there be an oversight of an independent CAD task force not over-populated with MPA representatives or their contractors to consider the environmental safety, human health, and wildlife in the area.

It is important that the task force proposed in House Bill 886 is moved into legislation. It's important the task force has a mix of independent scientist, 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,

Robert G. Pozgar

Rock Creek