

HOUSE BILL - 886 SUPPORT

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

My name is Vanessa G Feeheley. I live in the waterfront community of Riviera Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County. I grew up here in Riviera Beach and I have spent many a day swimming and crabbing in our local creeks and the Patapsco River. I took swimming lessons with the American Red Cross each and every summer until my Mom deemed that I was well rehearsed in being safe on the water. I don't believe she ever thought that being safe would include the nasty mess that is being proposed to dump into our recreational waterway.

Recently I have been fortunate enough to have my grandchildren move to our area (Sunset Beach) on Stoney Creek. They love being able to canoe, swim and crab on those waters.

I fear that if this Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) dumping of contaminated dredge material moves forward that our youth will be missing the beauty of one of the largest reasons for being in this area. It is byfar God's Little Acre, as I always to lovingly refer to it.

An independent oversight CAD task force that isn't overpopulated with MPA representatives or THEIR contractors is needed to consider the environmental impact on our community as it relates to our human health, the health of our wildlife, our safety and our well being.

We very well could lose our ability to utilize our recreational resources as the very air we breath could be impacted due to this contaminated dumping of the whatever nasty material is being dredged up. My mind goes directly to the shipping industry. Where are they dumping grease traps from the ships and other traps on their vessels?

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

Sincerely,

Vanessa G. Feeheley

Riviera Beach, MD