

## House Bill 886 – SUPPORT

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

I'm Lisa Wilson, a resident of Lombardee Beach, a waterfront community in Northern Anne Arundel County. Nearly two decades ago, I invested in my waterfront property along Nabbs Creek. As a single mother, I've worked hard to maintain my land, knowing the history of extensive sand and rock harvesting from Nabbs Creek. It's disheartening, to say the least, to learn of their intention to resume such activities in open tidal waters, AND storing the accumulating toxic waste dredged from port traffic in uncapped cells.

The prospect of Maryland Port Authority, storing toxic dredge material in Contaminated Aquatic Dredge cells, in the proposed area between Stoney Creek and Rock Creek, beneath the waterways where I've enjoyed teaching my boys to fish, socialize, swim, crab, jetski, surf, and captain a boat is deeply troubling. It keeps me awake at night. My teenage son has been diligently saving up for a boat of his own. He dreams of captaining a charter boat, fishing and crabbing in the very areas that are being considered for use as a holding tank for toxic forever chemicals. The thought of up to 166 football fields' worth of contamination being stored somewhere safe for all, instead being kept in the waters we strive to keep clean and safe is incredibly distressing.

I strongly believe that House Bill 886 should progress into legislation. At the very minimum, there must be transparency regarding the Maryland Port Authority's plan and how they could contemplate utilizing an area that hasn't undergone thorough testing. The prior testing took place within a three-walled berth, within industrial waters, and failed to consider the effects of tides and waves in the open waters, which are commonplace in our area on a daily basis.

What motivates anyone to bury persistent chemicals or any substances in the seabeds we've tirelessly nurtured to sustain life? Maryland takes great pride in our state, proudly displaying our colors and cherishing our crab population. However, the Maryland Port Authority (MPA) has failed to be forthcoming or transparent about their intentions. The potential impact on marine life is just one of many concerns stemming from this poorly conceived plan.

**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 bidirectional interactions with impacted communities in North Anne Arundel County and with our legislative representatives.**

Sincerely,

Lisa Wilson  
Lombardee Beach  
(Nabbs/Stoney Creek)