

House Bill 886 – SUPPORT

**House Bill 886 – Environment - CAD Task Force
House Committee on Environment and Transportation
February 31, 2024**

My name is Michon Washington. I live in the community of Stoney Beach – a 62-acre peninsula community in Curtis Bay in Northern Anne Arundel County with 1.2 miles of shoreline bordering the Patapsco River, Stoney Creek, and Cox Creek. I am an environmental scientist and have been working in the environmental protection for the last 30 years. I boat, fish and enjoy the amenities that the Patapsco River offers.

While I understand that dredging is essential to support the Baltimore Harbor and its shipping industry, I am deeply concerned about the dumping of toxic, contaminated material so close to shore. The safe and proper disposal of the removed dredge material is crucial to the health and safety of the Patapsco and its waterways, the Chesapeake Bay, the tidal ecosystem, and the citizens and especially families with children that live on, use, and play in these waterways. This is especially important because much of the dredge material removed from the Baltimore Harbor and Patapsco shipping channel is contaminated with highly toxic chemicals, that do not degrade and disappear over time, from past industrial dumping and runoff – many of which are carcinogenic. I have already seen the decline of the marine life, contaminated fish and a general degradation of the waterways over the last few years

It is absolutely critical that there be close oversight of an independent CAD task force not over-populated with MPA representatives or their contractors to consider the environmental safety, human health, and potential personal concerns and impacts. I write and review environmental documents for the federal government and its imperative that a detailed environmental impact statement be drafted and published with the concerned community given the opportunity to review and provide comments. It's even more important for those comments to be taken seriously and consideration be given to any counterproposals.

It is imperative 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,

Michon L. Washington
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