

February 21, 2024

**Dear Committee:**

My name is Samantha Manos. I live in the waterfront community of Stoney Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County. My husband and I moved to the community in 2016. We have 2 young children and enjoy spending our time outside in the community. We love our views of the Patapsco and watching our children play in the beachy areas and explore our walking path. We have considered moving, but enjoy living in 21226 due to its location in relation to both Baltimore City and Annapolis. We love being minutes from places in South Baltimore like Ft. McHenry, the Science Center, Latrobe Park, or any number of locally owned restaurants. We love having the Chesapeake Arts Center and Filbert Street Garden nearby. And we can be found at Kinder Farm, Down's Park, or the Baltimore Annapolis Trail just about every weekend.

I am concerned about the risks and impacts of the Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) dumping of contaminated material. Northern Anne Arundel County and South Baltimore City have historically been a dumping ground for industrial waste and regulatory abuse and neglect. This pattern of dumping dates back to the early twentieth century when Curtis Bay, Fairfield and Wagner's Point were first annexed and zoned for industrial use, which local educator and author Nicole Fabricant details in her 2023 book, *Fighting to Breathe: Race, Toxicity, and the Rise of Youth Activism in Baltimore*. I won't detail the whole history here as it is extensive. However, since moving to the community we have witnessed a number of environmentally concerning events in the 21226 area. Just a few of these events:

- On December 30, 2021 there was a coal explosion that CSX was responsible for
- This past October, Curtis Bay Energy was found guilty of improperly handling toxic medical waste
- Brandon Shores (Talen Energy) will be burning coal through the end of 2025 continuing to release toxic materials into our air

Unfortunately, due to this area historically being a dumping ground, companies continue to violate environmental standards and face minimal repercussions that include fines and donations to the community. However, the environment in which they live and their health are not negatively impacted.

I am worried that without proper independent oversight, this CAD project will contribute to the environmental damage and regulatory abuse and neglect that 21226 has become accustomed to. It is important that the task force proposed in House Bill 886 is moved into legislation. It's important that the task force is independent science-experts, impacted citizens, and watermen in its membership. It's also important that the task force has meaningful bidirectional interaction with impacted communities in Northern Anne Arundel County and with our legislative representatives.

Sincerely,

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Stoney Beach Resident  
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