

House Bill 886 – SUPPORT

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

My name is Gregory Sliviak. I live on the waterfront of Rock Creek in Northern Anne Arundel County. We are less than a mile from the proposed CAD project. I am a second-generation iron worker. My career was spent working in downtown Baltimore and surrounding areas. My livelihood also included many hours working in most of the chemical plants (Grace Chemical, Glidden Paint, Olin Chemical and Allied to name a few) and wastewater treatment plants in the area. I personally witnessed pumping into the bay by every plant that used water in their process of making chemicals. These included pool chemicals, octane boosters for gasoline and many other toxic chemicals.

In the 80's I personally witnessed Green Peace come up to the giant pipe from Sparrows Point and hook up to the sludge pipe that spewed toxic sludge 24 hours a day into the bay. They started pumping the sludge onto Bethlehem Blvd to make a statement. The coastguard was called, and the crew was arrested. The wastewater treatment plants I worked in had tanks containing water high in mercury. At the time many waterfowl roosted in the open tanks, they were likely hunted and then eaten. The danger is wide spreading when it comes to all the different exposures. I also worked at the Aberdeen Mustard burning facility. I witnessed PCB barrels being pushed off into the dredged part and pushed off into other waters. The steel mills, chemical plants and other toxic environments I have worked in and around Baltimore and Anne Arundel County have caused many construction workers to die because of the exposure. I have a friend who grew up beside Allied Chemical in Baltimore City, he lost his wife, sister and their baby sister all to cancer. One plant had employees that had actual holes in their noses between their nostrils.

The cove I live in isn't swimmable after any significant rainfall due to fecal matter that is released when the local pumping station can't take it all in. As a waterfront homeowner this is beyond upsetting to realize that there are limits on how many crabs and fish you can eat safely in a month between the toxic exposure.

The bay all the way up to the Susquehanna River is the biggest spawning area of a 300-million-dollar Rockfish industry. Now polluted with canker sores and a variety of Enterobacteriaceae resistant diseases that can cause skin infections, lung and joint problems can be caused by the rockfish. It has even caused amputations in some watermen.

I understand that the Baltimore Harbor and its shipping channel needs to be dredged and that the material needs to be removed. However, that material must be removed in a safe way and placed in a contained area that won't impact our environment negatively. The Port brings in millions of dollars to our area and it comes at a cost but it shouldn't come as a cost to citizens' wellbeing and rightful use of their property. The funds need to be used to come up with a less impactful method of dealing with that material.

The MPA has been extremely negligent in communicating their plans to use the CAD to the citizens of North Anne Arundel County and to our legislative representatives. It is my understanding based on research that there are currently no CAD sites that are located within residential communities and waterways. They are located next to industrial areas where the material was removed to limit the environmental impact.

The Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) will destroy an area that has rebounded significantly after years of decline. The project doesn't include a remediation plan in the event there is spillage which I can't imagine there wouldn't be of the "contaminated dredge material" whether in the process or once in place. The "material" that is being removed to be replaced by the contaminated dredged material is needed by the Port Authority so that they use it to "fuel" their reuse program, but it is likened to strip mining. The material that is being dredged out of the shipping channels is contaminated and not able to be used for that purpose in its current state. If the Port Authority continues as planned, they will be dredging wider channels which means a higher concentration of highly contaminated material since it hasn't been dredged before.

It is essential that there is the oversight of an independent CAD task force not over-populated with MPA representatives or their contractors to consider the environmental safety and human health of our community. It is very concerning to me that there was no knowledge of this planned CAD project and that the potential impact on our community was not being considered or protected. It is being presented as a 20-acre site when upon further pressing this would extend to Fort Smallwood State Park. Fort Smallwood has devoted millions of dollars to improving the beach areas and facilities for the community. No one will be able to use the facilities because of potential health safety concerns. We are already flooded with chemical production and pollution, and it appears that the Maryland Port Authority would like to further injure the community.

It is my opinion that Patapsco needs to have the most environmentally sensitive laws not the least! We have all worked so hard to improve our area and to see if destroyed is frightening to say the least. This project has been considered for many years and wasn't brought to light to anyone until the meeting that was organized back in June.

At the last meeting that I attended it was clear that the MPA has no other "Plan" in the event that the CAD project isn't successful, no "Plan" in the event that there is a spillage of the toxic dredged material.

It is essential that the task force proposed in House Bill 886 is moved into legislation. It's important that 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,

Gregory Sliviak - Rock Creek

