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House Bill 886 – SUPPORT

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

My name is Keith Kelley. My wife Debbie and I have been part of the Stoney Creek waterfront community of Pine Haven in North Anne Arundel County for almost 18 years. We have been active members of the Chesapeake Bay Power Boat Association for almost 30 years. Born and raised in Maryland, we have enjoyed swimming, boating, fishing and crabbing here our entire lives.

We bought our home on Stoney Creek because the water here is clean. To the best of our knowledge, the creek has never been closed by the AACo health department due to poor water quality. As residents in this waterfront community, we are sensitive to keeping the water clean.

The Port is an economic engine for Maryland, and so are the AACo waterfront communities. While we understand the importance of dredging the port, we are extremely concerned about the environmental and human safety impact of dredging and dumping of contaminated material back into the water as proposed in the CAD plan.

With such massive amounts of toxic material being disturbed and released into the water column so close to our communities, creating an independent task force to research and study the plan is the next logistical step.

Maryland has created independent task forces for many other important initiatives like this one before, especially those with a potential impact on the environment. There are numerous examples where the State of Maryland has historically stood firm on efforts to protect our environment, and reduce or eliminate pollution. This project should be no different.

My wife and I believe the CAD proposal puts gains we've made to improve water quality and protect the environment at significant risk. Therefore my wife and I support House Bill 886, and we are asking the committee to support it as well.

Best regards,

Keith Kelley
Pine Haven Community

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