

House Bill 886 – SUPPORT

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

My name is Sara Wagoner. I live in the waterfront community of Glen Oban in Anne Arundel County. I am a mother, educator, and a Watershed Steward for Anne Arundel County. The health of the Chesapeake Bay and the longevity of its surrounding environment are critical for the health and well being for all those who call this watershed home– human and otherwise.

While industry is vital for our economic growth, doing so in a way that is safest and with the least amount of adverse, long term consequences is even more pressing. All of the waterways are connected, and destroying part of the Patapsco without properly disposing of and containing the channel and berth-dredged materials would impair and weaken the whole of the Chesapeake Bay. As I hope you all do, I am concerned about children's health and wellbeing when they are exposed to toxins in their water supply. When forever chemicals and carcinogens are dumped into the waterways and/or the dredged materials are not contained in properly designated and fortified sites, then no amount of familial sustainability practices can combat what has been done to the water my children play in and the water we all drink. The risks and impacts of Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) dumping of contaminated dredge material are long lasting and far reaching.

An independent CAD task force composed of elected representatives, scientists, watermen, and citizens would best ensure that all decisions align with the community interest and not with the bottom line. If the task force is run by majority members of the MPA or their contractors, then how can we trust that they are looking out for the best interests of the Chesapeake Bay citizens? Without exaggeration, the Chesapeake Bay's health dictates all of our health.

As a citizen of this state and property owner, I implore my elected officials to protect my children and all those who live here.

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,

Sara Wagoner