

House Bill 886 – SUPPORT

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

My name is Alexis Whitmore. I live in the waterfront community of Rockview Beach and my house is located on Rock Creek in Northern Anne Arundel County. I have spent my entire life on the water whether it was rafted up at Dutch Ship, relaxing on Skiers Cove or heading to the bay to visit friends in Rock Creek/Stoney Beach, driving down to St. Michael's or spending a warm day in downtown Annapolis, we were always on the water. Living on the water was always a dream of mine and back in 2021 we were able to buy our little shore shack on Rock Creek. We spend our days crabbing, fishing, paddle boarding, swimming or just out on the boat like we always have. It's been incredible, we have family and friends up and down Stoney and Rock Creek now. We plan to build our dream home on this lot, grow our family here and spend many more years here.

The purposed Confined Aquatic Disposal dumping of contaminated dredge materials would completely change the life I currently live and the life I have planned for myself and my future family. The disruption of the areas by Stoney and Rock Creek which will eventually go all the way down Fort Smallwood will put every part of this area at risk. There will be no more swimming, fishing, crabbing, the waters will be contaminated with all the waste that the MPA is purposing to extract and dump into our backyards. The backyards that we cannot even do landscaping in without a permit from the county. The properties that we have to promise to protect and do nothing without the state and counties approval on in order to protect the waterways that we live on. Yet the MPA is going to be allowed to dump dredging materials that contain toxins from years of waste being dumped in the water from the port and Bethlehem Steel right into our backyards. Disturbing the sea floor will reinstitute the toxic waste into flowing water that will impact the surrounding residents. There has been work done on these creeks to ensure that the water is safe for many years. I look directly at the bubbler system in Rock Creek that has helped to keep the waterways safe here, how can we think that dumping this waste into our waters is okay.

I am genuinely concerned about the quality and the scope of the Maryland Port Authority research regarding the CAD system and its safety. I am also significantly concerned that this project has accelerated through the approval process without collaborating with the Maryland Department of Environment as well as the lack of independent health, science, and environmental oversight of this project.

Due to the misrepresentation, and significant safety concerns It is critically important that the task force proposed House Bill 886 be moved into legislation and enhanced with independent scientific experts in health, environment, and marine environmental engineering and testing as well as an independent expert in CAD. In addition, that the task force has meaningful bidirectional interactions with impacted communities in North Anne Arundel County and with our legislative representatives.

Sincerely,

Alexis Whitmore
Rockview Beach