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FAVORABLE
Senate Bill 168

**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 168 – Environment
Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
“Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act”**

On behalf of the Terrapin Institute and as a life-long resident of Anne Arundel County I would be most grateful for the Committee’s favorable consideration of Senate Bill 168. This proposed legislation will minimize industrial pollution and protect those communities along the shores of the Patapsco River from further degradation. I would prefer that SB 168 be applied throughout the Maryland tidewater as I believe we have come too far to regress back to dumping contaminated dredge spoil in open waters of the Chesapeake Bay. I very much appreciate Senator Simonaire’s attention to the Maryland Port Administration, in particular the dredge spoil disposal method known as Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD). Senator Simonaire’s dedication to constituents and diplomacy are commendable.

Despite the term CAD may be “aquatic disposal” but it is certainly not “confined”. In fact CAD is not much different from the open water disposal method that this legislature outlawed 25 years ago. (Some may recall “Site 104” and the plan to dump dredge spoil in a deep depression in the Bay bottom, just off shore of Kent Island.) I am concerned we may have become complacent with regard to the shipping industry and its impact on the Chesapeake and the lives of all Marylanders. Of course the shipping industry is vital to our State’s economy, but we must be more comprehensive and provident.

Thank you again for this opportunity to support this important legislation.

Respectfully,

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