

Senate Bill 168 – SUPPORT

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

My name is Kristen Merkel and I have lived in the waterfront community of Clearwater Beach/Orchard Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County for the past 11 years. I own a waterfront home on Stoney Creek and a boat and we enjoy the Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay waterways almost daily. We fish and crab from our pier and I am very concerned about the environmental risks and impacts of Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) dumping of contaminated dredge material.

The Patapsco needs to have environmentally sensitive laws, regulation, and oversight. The residential areas of the outer Patapsco in Anne Arundel County have hundreds of waterfront communities whose families swim, fish, crab, boat, and do water sports in the river and its waterways. The Patapsco waterways literally are the lifeblood of the communities in Northern Anne Arundel County. It's important for our future that these waterways are kept environmentally safe and that no further environmental damage is done to the Patapsco.

It is important that environmental justice is supported in pollution-overburdened communities near the Patapsco River and that the river, its waterways, and communities near these waterways are not subjected to further pollution risks posed by Confined Aquatic Disposal of dredge material. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 168 which will address longstanding environmental injustices on the Patapsco and protect pollution-impacted communities and waterways from further pollution caused by Confined Aquatic Disposal.

Sincerely,

Kristen Merkel

Clearwater Beach/Orchard Beach