

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 Albert Krehely, Jr. I live in the community of Riviera Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County.

Describe something personal about who you are, where you live, and why this is important to you.

My wife and I have been residents of Riviera Beach since 1982. We raised our three children here. When we first moved to Riviera Beach, the river was closed to fishing because of the pollution created by Bethlehem Steel and other nearby industries. Since then, the river has recovered and has become a vibrant part of our community where people can swim, fish, and participate in the sailboat races every Wednesday in the Summer months. The bufflehead ducks have returned from Canada to winter on the Patapsco from November to March right in front of our home and have done so now for at least the last 15 years. Fishermen, crabbers, and hunters routinely use the waters between Stoney Creek and Rock Creek throughout the year and Ft Smallwood Park has become a favorite swimming location in Anne Arundel County. All this progress on the Patapsco would be diminished greatly if the Confined Aquatic Disposal areas are allowed.

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,



Albert Krehely

8553 Bay Road

Riviera Beach, Md 21122