

**Senate Bill 168 – SUPPORT**

**Senate Bill 168 – Environment  
Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment  
“Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act”  
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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 grown up on the water and it was my families dream to eventually own waterfront property and I have done it. 29 years old and was able to buy the property that I wanted to spend the rest of my life in, build a family on. We have been here for almost five years. We have large dreams of building our dream home here and it was the vision we had the moment we walked on this property. The unfortunate thing is that we cannot do anything to our home including trimming a tree, changing landscaping, or adjusting anything on our property with out full review from the county because we are protecting our water ways. Yet this CAD project would cause extreme environmental damage to the exact same waterways and there is being nothing done about it. This CAD project is going to flood our waterways with toxic chemicals that they are going to try to not only tearing up but then going to put back into our water to further contaminate it. I am perplexed on how the state can enforce such strict requirements on residents but can allow a toxic waste project past through legislation without vetting the initiative with the impacted residents and appropriate state representatives.

In the second quarter of 2023 I attended a town hall meeting in which the CAD project was first presented to the residents as well as the State of Maryland representatives. It was a very emotional meeting as residents feared for the lives of their families, neighbors, pets, wildlife, and waterways. It was the first time that anyone was informed of toxic elements being relocated to the water in which they swim, boat, and live. Many questions surfaced around the safety of the project which could not be properly addressed. It was disclosed to the residents that most of the permits and project approvals were obtained during COVID and that the purpose of the town hall meeting was to educate the community on the CAD project. The perception of the audience was that the Maryland Port Authority took advantage of a worldwide health matter and secretly obtained approvals during a time when most individuals were fighting for their lives. This is outrageous and unethical.

I have significant concerns with the safety of the CAD project and the wellbeing of my family and friends. We live on the water and eat the crabs from our creek. It is no secret that there are carcinogens in the dredged water. My grandfather worked at Bethlehem Steel and the shipyard for over 30 years, he suffered significantly due to the exposure of toxic waste in the water. His medical conditions ranged from Mesothelioma, COPD, Congestive Heart failure and Leukemia. All attributed and confirmed to the exposure of toxic elements at the shipyard. This toxic material in the water has been dormant for decades. Disturbing the sea floor will reinstitute the toxic waste into flowing water that will impact the surrounding residents.

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.

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,

Alexis Whitmore

Rockview Beach