CAD Task force house committee on Environmental and Transportation

I am writing to you with significant concerns regarding the proposed CAD dredging program and its potential negative impacts on the environment. While dredging projects are often pursued with the intention of improving waterways for navigation, flood control, or other purposes, they can have severe consequences for the delicate balance of aquatic ecosystems.

Dredging involves the excavation and removal of sediment from the bottom of water bodies, which can disrupt the natural habitat of countless organisms. The sediment serves as a crucial substrate for various aquatic plants, invertebrates, and fish, providing them with food, shelter, and breeding grounds. By disturbing this sediment, dredging can lead to the destruction of habitat and a significant decline in biodiversity.

Furthermore, the process of dredging can stir up sediment that contains harmful pollutants such as heavy metals, pesticides, and other contaminants. These pollutants, which may have accumulated in the sediment over time, can be released into the water column, posing serious risks to aquatic life and potentially contaminating drinking water supplies downstream.

In addition to the immediate environmental impacts, dredging can also have long-term consequences for water quality and ecosystem health. The removal of sediment can disrupt natural processes such as nutrient cycling and sediment deposition, altering the physical and chemical properties of the water body. This disruption can lead to changes in water flow, erosion, and sedimentation patterns, further degrading the habitat for aquatic organisms.

Moreover, dredging projects often require the use of heavy machinery and equipment, which can contribute to noise pollution, habitat destruction, and disturbance to wildlife. The operation of these machinery can also consume significant amounts of energy, further exacerbating the project's environmental footprint.

Given these potential impacts, it is essential to carefully consider the necessity and alternatives to the proposed CAD dredging program. Alternative approaches, such as habitat restoration, sediment management, and ecosystem-based dredging techniques, may offer more sustainable solutions that minimize harm to the environment while still achieving the desired objectives.

I urge you to thoroughly assess the environmental risks and explore alternative options before proceeding with the CAD dredging program. By prioritizing the protection and preservation of our natural resources, we can ensure a healthier and more sustainable future for generations to come.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely concerned citizen,

Caitlin Aversa