

Signed Witness Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Albert Krehely Jr

Position: FAV

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

2025 Testimony SB 168 (Alexis Whitmore).pdf

Uploaded by: Alexis Whitmore

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 168 – SUPPORT

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

SB168 - CAD - BWB Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Alice Volpitta

Position: FAV



January 23, 2025

Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act (SB 168)
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Blue Water Baltimore is a nonprofit organization with a mission to protect and restore the quality of Baltimore's rivers, streams, and Harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities. **We write today in support of SB 168 and urge a favorable report from this committee.**

Blue Water Baltimore is home to the Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper, and our licensed jurisdiction through the international Waterkeeper Alliance includes the entirety of the Patapsco and Back River watersheds. This means that we are uniquely positioned among environmental NGOs in the region to focus on the health and prosperity of these waterways, and the people who live, work, and recreate around them. **This legislation has direct impacts on the Patapsco River and the overburdened communities residing along its shorelines.**

The Patapsco and Back Rivers are two of the most polluted and beleaguered tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay as evidenced from our routine water quality monitoring and assessments from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.¹² Many of the longstanding challenges with water quality and failing water infrastructure in the Baltimore region are rooted in decades of inequitable infrastructure investments and environmental racism. **Polluted streams and rivers are the manifestation of these systemic problems, and the people of Baltimore are being robbed of their inherent right to clean water every day.**

The practice of Confined Aquatic Disposal, or CAD, is relatively new to the state of Maryland. To date, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) has overseen the construction of one pilot CAD project near Masonville Cove in the Patapsco River, and is evaluating options for a second CAD project in the tidal Patapsco. In short, the practice involves: (1) Digging a huge underwater hole in the riverbed; (2) Disposing of the unsuitable removed material in Dredged Material Containment Facilities, (3) Utilizing a portion of the "good-quality" removed sediment for beneficial reuse projects, and (4) Filling the subaquatic hole with "lower-quality" dredged material that is generated from other locations.

The full extent of the environmental, socioeconomic, and public health impacts of CAD sites in the Patapsco remain unclear, which is why the Bay Enhancement Working Group of the MPA Dredged Material Management Program has established a CAD subcommittee to review the overall concept, need, viability, and available options associated with a second CAD pilot project to aid in meeting the long-term dredged material placement needs of the State. Data from other CAD installations around the world suggest that the impacts associated with CAD cells can be very site-specific, and we don't know how food chain dynamics, contaminant distribution, sediment transport, riverbed stability, or other factors will be affected at a particular location; this is precisely why MPA is constructing and evaluating pilot projects in the Patapsco before the practice potentially spreads to other rivers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. One thing we know for certain about these CAD sites is that their construction will necessarily destroy subaquatic vegetation, their seed banks, and any benthic life on the riverbed when the holes are dug.

¹ Baltimore Water Watch. 2025. Blue Water Baltimore. <http://www.BaltimoreWaterWatch.org>.

² 2023 Chesapeake Bay Report Card. University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. <https://ecoreportcard.org/report-cards/chesapeake-bay/watershed-health/>

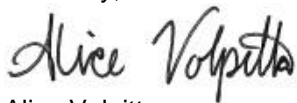
As your Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper, my role is to speak on behalf of the Patapsco and Back Rivers and amplify the voices of the people in those watersheds who love and value their waterways. The communities living near Stoney Creek and Rock Creek along the Patapsco have raised their voices loud and clear, that they are in strong opposition to the construction of CAD cells anywhere in the Patapsco River. In particular, the communities to the west of Stoney Creek (e.g. Stoney Beach and Orchard Beach), which have an MDE Environmental Justice Screening Score of 86.12%, continue to voice concerns about the environmental and public health risks associated with CAD.³ These are neighborhoods that have already had to bear the brunt of pollution caused by noncompliant wastewater treatment plants and nearby coal-fired power plants, among other sources. **While this piece of legislation was inspired by the grassroots group of people along the Patapsco who see CAD knocking at their front door, the focus on protecting overburdened communities extends statewide.** We know that the cumulative impacts of pollution and environmental destruction are not felt equally across the State, and it is imperative to protect vulnerable communities whenever possible.

This legislation will:

- Prohibit MDE and the Board of Public Works from processing applications and permits that are submitted for the purpose of constructing CAD cells within 5 miles of a residential overburdened community;
- Effectively ban the construction of CAD cells throughout the Patapsco River, given the high density and proximity of overburdened communities along our shorelines;
- Protect community members who already shoulder an oversized load of our collective pollution burden;
- Align MPA's dredged material management practices with the best interests of our local waterways and the people who rely on them.

For these reasons, Blue Water Baltimore respectfully asks this committee to issue a favorable report on SB 168.

Sincerely,



Alice Volpitta
Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper
Blue Water Baltimore
avolpitta@bluewaterbaltimore.org

³ MDE EJ Screening Tool Version 2.0 Beta. <https://mdewin64.mde.state.md.us/EJ/>. Accessed January 23, 2025.

ALLISON BACHMANN.pdf

Uploaded by: Allison Bachmann

Position: FAV

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 Allison Bachmann. My husband and I live in the community of Orchard Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County.

We understand the need to "promote the long-term viability of the Port of Baltimore" but surely there are better solutions in the twenty-first century to deal with the toxic waste of our past ignorance and greed than to dump it on the doorstep of the residents of the beautiful communities downstream.

We are minutes from major metropolitan areas but we feel like we live in another time and place. Many of the houses in this community were built as summer homes for city residents to escape the heat and crowds of Baltimore. Almost 100 years later it still has that idyllic vibe. When I came here forty years ago from the Black Hills of South Dakota I wondered how anyone could live without mountains. Before long I couldn't imagine living anywhere but on the water.

From our water-view home we can launch our kayaks into Stoney Creek where kids playing along the shore share the creek with watermen, fishermen, water skiers, jet skiers, motor boats, and sail boats. To the west we can paddle into Nabbs Creek, enjoying the lovely homes along its shores until we reach the shallow headwaters where invariably we see baby crabs and Blue Heron. Sometimes a Bald Eagle soars overhead. To the east we can see the mouth of Stoney Creek where it meets the Patapsco River before it enters the Chesapeake Bay: one beautiful system of connected tidal waterways. As we get closer to spring I can hardly wait to get back on the water, but in the winter months seeing Canvas Backs, American Coots, and other migrating waterfowl floating together in the creek makes up for the wait.

The MPA project just off of the mouth of our creek might disrupt the quiet tranquility of our community only for months...or years...but all of the rest of what I describe would be in jeopardy for decades, if not generations, to come. The Confined Aquatic Disposal would not be "confined" in any way. The MPA would have us believe that, uncovered, somehow the toxins and heavy metals of the contaminated dredge material will miraculously remain in the trench they dig in the bottom of the river, in spite of the daily tides, the large tidal surges that take place during every big storm, the hurricanes which pass through with increasing frequency, and the turbidity from the massive cargo and cruise ships passing over it. These dangers will only become worse as the port becomes busier and our climate becomes more volatile.

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,

Allison Bachmann

Orchard Beach, MD

2025 Testimony Template SB 168.docx_20250123_22522

Uploaded by: Amanda Hughes

Position: FAV

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 Amanda Hughes. I am a military spouse and mother of 2. I live and work in the community of Pasadena in Anne Arundel County.

My time here as a resident of this area has been only 2 years, but from the state of the waters already I know that years more of this pollution CANNOT continue. When parents can't feel safe taking their children to the bay due to bacteria, parasites, pollution, and TONS of trash; then it is time to look at why. No longer shall our citizens and our next generations suffer the environmental decay allowed under these actions. For all our wildlife and all our habitat we must never allow anything to be buried in the bay or dumped in the bay. There are PFOAs and toxic chemicals in the water neither of which are acceptable for our communities.

Please read this excerpt from the website Chesapeake Bay Foundation hosts.

"What are Chemical Contaminants?"

Chemical contamination occurs when chemicals are either found where they shouldn't be or are present in amounts that are higher in concentration than is considered safe. Toxic chemicals are constantly entering the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams via industrial sites, military bases, wastewater, stormwater, agriculture, and air pollution. These dangerous chemicals, including mercury and other metals, pesticides, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), and PFAS (per- or poly-fluoroalkyl substances), do not break down easily, persisting in the environment for many years. You can't see them, smell them, or taste them, but these contaminants are present, causing harm to the Bay, its fish, and wildlife—and many have also been linked to human health problems.

Types of Chemical Contaminants

There are many types of chemical contaminants in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, almost three-quarters of the Chesapeake Bay's tidal waters are considered impaired by contaminants. Each contaminant has a unique and harmful impact on the fish, birds, and humans that depend on the Bay. Many bioaccumulate, or build up in the body, faster than they can be eliminated."

<https://www.cbf.org/issues/chemical-contamination/index.html>

I sincerely ask that in the interest of the public we unite together and clean the bay. One day I hope we can say that our efforts and voices were heard and communities rallied together to fix what we all know is broke.

While I have your attention I would like to further support human health with my words on additional related topics.

Pollution is not just a problem in the water, but it's in the air. Geoengineering over our skies must end. We need cleaner and faster transportation for the city! While I lived in Europe for 5 years I saw how efficient it was for cities to have trains that people didn't need to drive everywhere. They simply walked to the train station and saved the towns and cities from having too much traffic. Almost every town has a connection to a high speed train. Representatives need to hear that this area severely needs trains. This will cut the air pollution down by a lot and help travelers get where they need to go. From Baltimore and all the areas in between to DC we need trains. This traffic is utterly ridiculous.

I want to say there is also pollution in the food we consume and in our cosmetics. With all the seemingly endless lists chemicals and preservatives, its nauseating. Toxins build up in homes in the forms of volatile organic compounds from the fragrances and the cleaning supplies people use. Toxic fire retardants and VOCs off gas from new furniture. Companies push the line when it comes to health. Cheaper unhealthy ingredients, many preservatives, parabens, phthalates, and cancer-causing chemicals all banned by the thousands in EU, but for our food and products Americans consume everyday, we get Brighter dyed food and health problems with our side of fries.

With all this in mind, please don't let another pollution be allowed. Our bodies, our childrens bodies are overloaded with endocrine disrupting, reproductive health disturbing chemicals. The buck stops with me. I am my family's 1st defense against bad health. I STRONGLY SUPPORT.

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.

Thank You,

Amanda Hughes

Pasadena

A.G. 2025 Testimony SB 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrea Gibble

Position: FAV

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 Andrea Gibble, and I live in the community of Stoney Beach, in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I moved to this area and the Stoney Beach Community when I bought my first home a little over two years ago. I couldn't believe how fortunate I was to live in such a beautiful place, so close to so much nature. My dog Cooper and I quickly made a habit of walking along my community's boardwalk and community park situated on the bay several times a week, as well as walking Ft. Smallwood Park at least once a week. Before I even fully moved in, I had become an annual passholder to the AA County parks and had discovered Quiet Rivers and Downs Park. Being able to sit on and walk along the shores of the bay are relaxing and a wonderful change of pace. Since I was little, I loved photography and taking pictures of the world around me became a hobby. The nature and animals of this area have greatly increased the beauty of my photographs and my joy in simply taking photographs for hobbies-sake. Having easy access to fishing and kayaking also brought me two new and additional hobbies when I moved here.

As a former public-school teacher and now the owner of a children's science & technology summer camp business, I understand and appreciate the importance of not only enjoying but preserving our natural resources and environment. This part of Maryland has so many ecosystems and habitats with countless animals, birds, fish, and other organisms. It's a shame to think that all of this could be at risk simply because a big corporation is trying to find an easier and quicker way to do their job and get rid of dredge material. I have seen and read the literature about the proposed CAD. It is alarming that it is even being considered as an option for an area that is so populated and surrounded by communities and parks. Because CADs have only been used in non-residential settings, there is little data to support how safe it is for people and wildlife nearby. After reading the information, I was left with a lot more questions than knowledge. It seemed that those in favor and in charge of CAD hoped that the vague, non-descriptive information would be enough. It was not.

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,



Andrea Gibble

Stoney Beach Community

A.G. Exhibits SB 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrea Gibble

Position: FAV

Would this unobstructed beauty still be visible if CAD dredge storage was done here, and what effect would it have on the people, animals, plants, and sea life that call this area home?



If CAD is allowed in the Patapsco River, will it be there to enjoy like it is now for future generations?



CAD Task force.pdf

Uploaded by: Caitlin Aversa

Position: FAV

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

SB 168 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Carl Treff

Position: FAV

Testimony in support of SB168
Carl Treff, Pasadena

To Committee Chair Feldman and committee, thank you for allowing my testimony today.

My name is Carl Treff, and I am here today to testify in favor of SB168 and the prohibition of confined aquatic disposal (CAD) near overburdened communities. As a lifelong resident of Pasadena, on the shores of “ground zero” where CAD is intended by the Maryland Port Administration, I am highly concerned about CAD’s effects on residents, recreation, and river habitat. We are already faced with pollution from power plants, wastewater treatment plants, illegal incinerator dumping, and decades-long pollution from Bethlehem Steel.

It is well known that the Patapsco River is heavily industrialized. But at a certain point the outer river morphs into a highly residential and recreational area. Despite what you might think, our river is alive!

The outer part of our river is ringed with communities that enjoy their waterfront for boating, kayaking, tubing, fishing, crabbing, swimming, and even watching dolphins graze. There are public boat ramps, public parks, kids sail camps, sailing regattas, just to name a few things.

Now, imagine digging a 90’ deep hole, equivalent in size to 15 football fields, right in the middle of our river. Not only does the initial dig potentially stir up decades-old contaminants, but this 20-acre hole will destroy upwards of 160 million bottom dwelling organisms which are the beginning of the food chain. Once the initial hole is dug, dredge spoils are then placed in it. So, there is a double dip of muck going in and coming out of the hole. The extent of drifting silt has yet to be addressed, yet two restoration oyster reefs, decades in the making, sit a mile or two away. Assuming MPA gets their foot in the door with their first pilot CAD site, there are certainly plans to keep gouging more 20-acre holes in our river after that.

As a resident, recreationalist, and environmental steward of the Patapsco River, I can attest that our river is indeed alive! Mining and destroying the bottom of our river is a half-baked idea, and the MPA has yet to prove without a doubt that CAD is an environmentally safe alternative to land-based dredge storage. I urge you to vote yes for SB168. Our river is not MPA’s landfill.

Testimony submitted by:
Carl Treff
8110 Whites Cove Road
Pasadena, MD 21122
410-627-3093

LWVMD - SB 168 - Environmental Justice in Confined

Uploaded by: Casey Hunter

Position: FAV



Testimony to The SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SB 168 - Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act

POSITION: Support

By: Linda T. Kohn, President

Date: January 28, 2025

Since the emergence of the environment movement in the 1970s, the League of Women Voters has advocated for policies that protect our planet and promote public health. The League believes that advancing environmental justice is critical for ensuring an equitable, sustainable, and prosperous future for all Marylanders.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland **supports SB 168**. This legislation is an important step toward addressing the ongoing environmental injustices faced by overburdened and underserved communities in Maryland. **SB 168** would ensure that Maryland's overburdened communities are protected from the construction of confined aquatic disposal (CAD) cells, which impose a greater risk of being exposed to pollution or contamination.

SB 168 is not a prohibition on developing new CAD cells but a mechanism to ensure that future siting decisions do not further compound the environmental injustices faced by Maryland's already overburdened communities. Overburdened and underserved communities - namely low-income communities and communities of color - disproportionately bear the brunt of environmental pollution and its associated health impacts. Projects that pose threats to air and water quality are often placed in these overburdened and underserved census tracts, perpetuating inequities in opportunity and health outcomes. **SB 168** would work to protect these communities from further environmental injustices at the hands of the state's permitting process.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland **urges a favorable report on SB 168**.

2025 Testimony Template SB 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Charles Verschoore

Position: FAV

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 Charles Verschoore. I live in the community of Bayside 30 or specially address 1846 Cook Farm Ct., Pasadena 21122 in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I have lived in Pasadena most of my life since 1987 and worked for NSA for 40 years retiring in 2023. My wife Terry Cerreta, a native from Dundalk, asked how did I find this prime location making me aware of my neighbors with last names of Calvert, Cook, Hancock, Mason, and Webster? I realized just then the significance of this place having to purchase a King's Title search. Being right behind Irv's basement bar, Kurtz's beach, Atlantic Marina resort, further adds the unique qualities of this property. Everyday my wife and I see abundant wildlife including terrapins, beavers, deer, foxes, hummingbirds, owls, all kinds of waterfowl and even an occasional eagle!

This is why 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,

Charles Verschoore
Bayside 30
1846 Cook Farm Ct.
Pasadena, MD 21122

2025 Testimony SB 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Chuck Thompson

Position: FAV

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 Chuck Thompson. I live in the community of Bayside Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I’ve lived in Pasadena, MD since 1960. Over the years I’ve seen the water quality in Rock Creek become quite appalling – not fit for fish, fowl, or human.

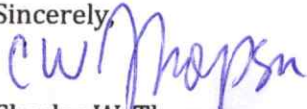
Recently I’ve been pleasantly surprised by the life being brought back into Rock Creek. It appears the waterways are recovering, so I do not understand why anyone would want to jeopardize this trend with the damage a Confined Aquatic Disposal approach could introduce into the waterways.

In addition, I understand the Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (CC DMCF) will eventually reach full capacity, and planning is needed to maintain the channels into the Baltimore Harbor. Right now, all dredged material based on a geographic definition rather than a technical definition is being vectored to the CC DMCF. Because both acceptable and unacceptable dredged material (i.e., geographic definition) is required to go to the CC DMCF this will lead to a premature closure of the facility. There are viable options to extend the end-of-life forecast for the CC DMCF that should be pursued.

Support for this bill means support for enhancing the Patapsco River, and that is a worthy cause.

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,



Charles W. Thompson

Bayside Beach

SB 168 CAD Dredging Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Dakota Wendling

Position: FAV

SB168

Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the CAD Program slated for the Patapsco River/Chesapeake Bay and its detrimental impact on the environment. As a passionate advocate for environmental conservation and the preservation of our precious waterways, I cannot stay silent while such damaging practices continue to degrade our natural resources.

The Patapsco River holds immense ecological significance, serving as a vital habitat for diverse species, and providing countless recreational opportunities for local communities. However, the current dredging operations sanctioned by the Maryland Port Authority pose a significant threat to the health and sustainability of this delicate ecosystem.

One of the primary issues with the program is its inadequate consideration of the long-term consequences of dredging on the Patapsco River. While dredging may initially seem like a solution to maintain navigable waterways, it often leads to devastating consequences such as the disruption of sediment habitats, the release of harmful pollutants, and the erosion of riverbanks. These disruptions not only harm aquatic life but also diminish the overall water quality of the river, jeopardizing the well-being of both wildlife and humans who rely on it.

Furthermore, the disposal of dredged materials from the Patapsco River poses a significant environmental threat. The current practices of disposing of dredged sediments in landfills or dumping them offshore can result in contamination of surrounding land and water bodies, further exacerbating the pollution problem and endangering nearby ecosystems.

Additionally, the CAD Program lacks sufficient transparency and community engagement. Decision-making processes regarding dredging activities often occur without adequate input from local stakeholders, including environmental organizations, scientists, and residents who are directly impacted by these operations. This lack of transparency not only undermines public trust but also hinders the development of sustainable solutions that prioritize the health of the Patapsco River.

In conclusion, the Dredged Material Management Program's approach to managing dredging activities in the Patapsco River is fundamentally flawed and unsustainable. It prioritizes short-term economic interests over the long-term health and vitality of this crucial ecosystem. It is imperative that we advocate for more responsible and environmentally-conscious practices that prioritize the protection and restoration of the Patapsco River for future generations.

Sincerely,
Rock Creek Resident
Dakota Wendling

Daniel Greene Testimony SB 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Greene

Position: FAV

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 Daniel Greene. I live in the waterfront community of Nabbs and Stoney Creek in Northern Anne Arundel County. I live at the confluence of Nabbs and Stoney Creek and sailing, fishing, and crabbing are a big part of my life. I support Senate Bill 168 and strongly oppose the construction of a CAD site at the mouth of Stoney Creek.

The Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) project by the Maryland Port Authority would lead to dumping of dredge material contaminated with heavy metals, petroleum, PFAs, and other toxic forever chemicals over a 20-acre area off of Stoney Creek. The Maryland Port Authority plans to expand this 20-acre site to an area of up to 220 acres moving towards Fort Smallwood at the mouth of Stoney Creek.

I am concerned about impact of the CAD project on

- water quality in the Patapsco River, Stoney Creek, and Rock Creek being affected by the scraping of sand off the dump site, dumping the dredge material, and leaving the CAD site uncovered.
- aquatic plant life that will be devastated by the dredge sediment deposited on the CAD site and the sediment that then drifts throughout the mouth of the Patapsco River, Stoney Creek, Nabbs Creek, Rock Creek and nearby areas of the Chesapeake Bay
- marine wildlife (fish, crabs, oysters, and other species) living in and around the CAD dump site as well as the recreational and commercial fishing in the area
- the birds, other animals, and people that feed on the aquatic plant life and marine wildlife that are impacted by the dredge dumping
- recreational use and potential health problems due to contact (swimming, boating, water sports, etc) with contaminated water
- noise and disruption to the Patapsco River and Stoney Creek areas related to the disposal operation

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,

Daniel Greene - Nabbs and Stoney Creek resident

SB 168_Dan_Sheer.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Sheer

Position: FAV

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 Daniel Peter Sheer; I live in Howard County Maryland. I am the current Commodore of the Rock Creek Racing Association, whose members primarily live in Northern Anne Arundel County, many in overburdened communities. We are recreational users of the area that would be impacted by the development of CAD sites in the Patapsco River.

I am also the founder, and former owner, and President of HydroLogics Inc., a small Maryland firm that helped manage water resources used, in total, by about 20% of the U.S. population. Analyzing complex water resources problems is my stock and trade. I have received several national awards for my work. I am a citizen and taxpayer of the State of Maryland, concerned with avoiding non-productive State expenditures, particularly those that are likely to do substantial environmental and social damage while providing little or no benefit to the State and its citizens.

I support Senate Bill 168 because it will help ensure that communities already overburdened with environmental impacts will not suffer additional hardship (environmental justice). I also support SB 168 because it will make it less likely that the State will waste taxpayer money on CAD projects that will pose significant environmental risks while failing to achieve their intended objectives. The link between these two reasons is simple. Water courses near overburdened communities are highly likely to have very contaminated sediments. Places with substantial, existing sediment contamination are terrible locations for CAD projects.

Case in point, the area being proposed for a CAD “Pilot Project” in the Patapsco River is very near the underwater Superfund site. Sampling of the sediments at the proposed CAD site shows high levels of toxicity. Dredging those toxic sediments is required to create a CAD cell. Dredging toxic sediment is highly problematic. It will:

- 1) Spread contamination throughout the water column
- 2) Spread contamination along adjacent shorelines
- 3) Increase the risks associated with water based recreational activities
- 4) Pose a risk of contaminating fish and shellfish
- 5) Incur significant cost

To be viable, a publicly funded CAD project must provide public benefits. CAD is touted as a potential solution to the disposal of material dredged to maintain the Port of Baltimore (Maintenance Dredged Material – MDM). Currently MDM must be placed in a Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) such as Masonville or Cox Creek. Locations for new DMCF facilities are becoming hard to find; that is the crux of the problem. It is, in my opinion, highly unlikely that using CAD will significantly reduce that problem; it may well make the problem worse. CAD will also be very expensive, and as discussed above, fraught with environmental and social risks.

Utilizing CAD will require at least twice and likely three or four times as much dredging as would placing MDM directly in a DMCF; likely much more. If MDM is placed in a DMCF (no CAD), the MDM is the only material to be dredged. In the case of using CAD, first, material must be dredged to create a hole in the river bottom (CAD dredged material – CDM), and then the MDM must be dredged and placed in the hole. In a best case, twice as much material must be dredged, and the

CDM still has to go somewhere. Worse, at least part of the CDM will be even more contaminated than the MDM from the harbor. This increases the difficulty of disposal, creating a worse problem.

Additional dredging is costly. Current USACE contracts for harbor dredging cost of about \$17/cubic yard (cy). Corrected to current dollars, the Masonville DMCF cost about \$12/cy. That alone makes CAD significantly more expensive than DMCF, ignoring the cost of disposal of the CDM. If the CDM cannot be sold or repurposed, it will need to remain in a DMCF. That would add another \$12/cy to the cost of CAD disposal, making it more than 2.5 times more expensive than simply placing the MDM directly into a DMCF. Worse, the amount of DMCF capacity required would be the same in both cases. That's a lot of money and a lot of environmental and social risk for no gain whatsoever.

To the extent that the CDM can be repurposed, the amount of DMCF capacity required can be reduced. Much of the CDM is similar to but likely more contaminated than the MDM. There is no established market for such material. If, and it's a big if, a use can be found for this part of the CDM, it is likely that the MDM can be used in the same way. In a best case scenario all the MDM would be used directly, eliminating the need for both CAD and any additional DMCF capacity. In my opinion any reuse of either MDM or the similar part of the CDM is unlikely, but well worth investigating. Direct use of MDM would solve the problem at hand, be less costly, and avoid other impacts.

Some of the CDM will be sand, a commodity with a value of about \$5/cy according to the USGS. That is assuming that the sand is not contaminated, and that it can be sold for the same price as sand from conventional sources. Both of these are likely poor assumptions. If the CDM is 50% sand, and both assumptions hold, it will still cost \$17 to dredge \$5 worth of sand and save .5cy (\$6 worth) of DMCF capacity. This is not a good deal, in my opinion.

Relatively simple calculations show that, given the assumptions in the previous paragraph, new DMCF capacity would need to cost nearly 3x the inflation corrected cost of Masonville to make CAD attractive economically. That calculation completely ignores the environmental and social risks and other costs associated with CAD, and that the CDM material that would be placed in the DMCF would likely be significantly more toxic than MDM material. It is extremely likely that implementing CAD would be a terrible idea.

As stated earlier, CAD sites near overburdened communities are likely to be similar to those in the Patapsco. Removing such sites from consideration would likely benefit the State by avoiding costly evaluations of sites unlikely to be desirable.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 168. It will help:

- 1) avoid significant State expenditures on feasibility and pilot studies on CAD sites that are unlikely to be good candidates for implementation,
- 2) prevent CAD implementations that provides little benefit at great economic environmental and social costs, and
- 3) provide environmental justice.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Sheer, Commodore, Rock Creek Racing Association, Citizen of the great State of Maryland.

Bill 169 support complete.pdf

Uploaded by: David Copley

Position: FAV

David H. Copley AIA

1306 Water Oak Drive
Pasadena, MD 21122
H (410) 255-9081
C (443) 848-7877
david_copley@verizon.net

Date: January 24, 2025

RE: SB 168

From: David Copley, Resident/Owner living in Water Oak Cove Community, Pasadena

Re: Support of Senator Simonaire's bill (SB 168) regarding CAD operations in the Patapsco

The State and AA County have spent millions on the award-winning Fort Smallwood Park (located at the mouth of the Patapsco) protecting the waterfront, reducing erosion impacts, creating boating launch ramps, a fishing pier, and swimming facilities. Maryland Port Administration (MPA) has proposed undertaking a dredging procedure described as Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD). Besides impacting the public's use of Fort Smallwood Park, CAD will affect this portion of the bay waters, negating the positive impacts of the Critical Area Legislation established with the expressed purpose of improving the health of the bay waters.

Thanks to a recent article in *The Baltimore Sun*, December 12 by Natalie Jones) some light has been focused on the MPA proposed first step of digging a 20-acre hole (equivalent to 15 football fields) up to 90 feet deep into the relatively shallow river bottom (15') and dumping channel dredged material into the hole some 1.5 miles away from the park. This operation may be repeated for years, each moving closer to the park as the full area described is for 220 acres. Some material removed to make the hole will be placed in existing diked containment facility designed to protect the environment from the contamination. Conceptually MPA hopes much of the removed material is sand and aggregate suitable for subsequent use in construction activities. The initial dredging to create the hole and subsequent dropping of the channel dredged material thru the water column will result in substantial release of fines and any potential contaminants into the river where tidal and wave action will likely disperse the material over a substantial distance.

MPA's own consultants admit there are substantial biologic populations in the soft surface layer of the riverbed to be removed to reach the sand and gravel layers. This 20-acre surface layer is to be placed in the existing Cox Creek containment facility supplanting available space intended for channel dredged material. The dredging to create the hole and subsequent filling operation may take place over two seasons within a year. Some of the MPA consultants claim the disturbance and impact is temporary. I maintain the removal of layers containing biologics and the disturbance to 20 acres of river bottom and decreased water clarity is more long lasting and impactful. Repetition of this operation over 10 or more years will likely prevent any substantial recovery of grasses, oysters and other biologics in the river disturbed or displaced by this operation. For perspective, I ask how is one's health impacted by one year of smoking vs ten or more years?

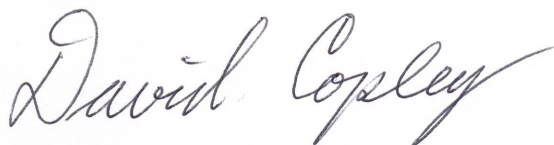
I am a long-term resident of Anne Arundel County and as an Architect, I can speak to the efforts the State and Local jurisdictions have enacted to protect and improve the bay water quality. These requirements have impacted thousands of Anne Arundel County residents with greater costs and limitations applied to their properties within the "Critical Area" with even more restrictions applied to waterfront lots which have included very stringent limitations on work within 100 feet of the water's edge. One could argue that ALL construction related required sediment and erosion control measures are temporary and will cease after construction is completed similar to MPA's position that impact of dumping dredged material into the hole is temporary. So, the public's reaction will likely be: Why is the government allowing MPA to purposely and significantly expand operations beyond maintenance channel dredging, impact otherwise undisturbed river bottom, and prolong the time line of dredging operations while making the public live with substantial restrictions which were intended to reduce turbidity and improve water quality and health of biologics in the bay? Those that live and recreate here want to see improvements to the river and not something that is going to do the opposite and possibly effect the long-term health of our beloved and living resource.

It is inconceivable to me that all these environmental improvement efforts imposed on the general public can be effectively negated by allowing the MPA to purposely dig a big hole in an area south of the shipping channel and dump the channel dredged material in the area when proven and long used containment areas could be used.

The MPA proposes to designate the operation as CAD (Confined Aquatic Disposal) with no cap layer envisioned. This will result in the dumped channel dredged material being continuously disturbed by tidal flows, storms and boat/shipping traffic and may result in the deposited fines and any chemicals being redispersed in the active water column to spread and pollute other areas outside this defined CAD site. In my opinion the "Confined" component of the CAD proposal is a misnomer. In public meetings they cannot even clearly define "CAD", "Open Dumping" (prohibited in the Maryland portions of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries), nor "Confined".

Is this action consistent with what we have been working toward for the health of the Chesapeake Bay for so long? A group of concerned residents, scientists and individuals actively involved in bay and wildlife restoration have been following this proposal and analyzing the likely outcomes. It is not a pretty picture. We have developed a source of detailed information and generated a survey of public opinion which is nearly unanimous in disagreeing with this approach to dealing with shipping channel maintenance dredging.

I support SB 168 and its intent to severely limit CAD.



Sincerely,
David Copley, AIA ret

Dawn Hegarty Senate Bill 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Dawn Hegarty

Position: FAV

Dawn Hegarty - dawnhegarty3@gmail.com

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 Dawn Hegarty. I am a resident of the Riviera Beach Community located in Northern Anne Arundel County, Pasadena Maryland.

I have been a resident and homeowner of Northern Anne Arundel County, 21122 since 1987, along with real property invested in Curtis Bay 21226, Baltimore City for the same time period.

I am a member and volunteer of the Riviera Community Improvement Association non-profit organization since on or before 2010 and a new member to the Curtis Bay Association. A certified AACO Master Watershed Steward since 2022 for aiding in environmental change.

I strongly support SB 168, for Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act. Our health matters! It is a known fact of the high levels of heart disease, cancers, learning disabilities, asthma, associated with the shared toxic pollution in our overburden communities that are in or in close proximity of industry. Our Historical Patapsco River is one of the largest tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay.

Our Historical Patapsco River and the residents within & throughout need SB 168 for the protection & safeguards from the repeat injustices of pollution mishaps & the unseen shared contaminates to our watershed. We can't take no more! For the love of God, please support SB 168.

Thank you. Dawn Hegarty

CAD January 2025 George.pdf

Uploaded by: George Wendling

Position: FAV

January 24, 2025

My name is George Wendling, I live on the water on Rock Creek, Northern Anne Arundel County. My wife and I have dreamed of living on the water since 1985. We were finally able to move on the water on Rock Creek in 2017. We have a beautiful house on the water and enjoy boating, swimming, crabbing off our pier, fishing off our pier and paddle boarding.

My father-in-law, William Polczynski, 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 the flowing water that will impact the surrounding residents.

My concerns with the CAD program are the risks associated with the dredge that is highly toxic and contaminated with forever chemicals that are carcinogenic. For decades the water in this area has been contaminated due to sewage overflow. We are finally seeing improvements in the waterways.

We are against having the CAD in any residential area. We need to save our waterways from this toxic carcinogenic.

Thank you,

George Wendling

2025 Gregory Sliviak Senate Bill 168 (002).pdf

Uploaded by: Gregory Sliviak

Position: FAV

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 Gregory Sliviak. I live on Rock Creek in Northern Anne Arundel County. We are less than a mile from the proposed CAD project. I am a second-generation iron worker. My career was spent working in downtown Baltimore and surrounding areas. My livelihood also included many hours working in most of the chemical plants (Grace Chemical, Glidden Paint, Olin Chemical and Allied to name a few) as well as wastewater treatment plants in the area. I personally witnessed pumping into the bay by every plant that used water in their process of making chemicals. These included pool chemicals, octane boosters for gasoline and many other toxic chemicals.

In the 80's I personally witnessed Green Peace come up to the giant pipe from Sparrows Point and hook up to the sludge pipe that spewed toxic sludge 24 hours a day into the bay. They started pumping the sludge onto Bethlehem Blvd to make a statement. The coastguard was called, and the crew was arrested. The wastewater treatment plants I worked in had tanks containing water high in mercury. At the time many waterfowl roosted in the open tanks, they were likely hunted and then eaten. The danger is wide spreading when it comes to all the different exposures. I also worked at the Aberdeen Mustard burning facility. I witnessed PCB barrels being pushed off into the dredged part and pushed off into other waters. The steel mills, chemical plants, and other toxic environments I have worked in and around Baltimore and Anne Arundel County have caused many of my coworkers to die because of the exposure. I have a friend who grew up beside Allied Chemical in Baltimore City, he lost his wife, sister, and their baby sister all to cancer. One plant had employees that had actual holes in their noses between their nostrils.

The cove I live in isn't swimmable after any significant rainfall due to fecal matter that is released when the local pumping station can't take it all in. As a waterfront homeowner this is beyond upsetting to realize that there are limits on how many crabs and fish you can eat safely in a month between the toxic exposure.

Most people are not aware that the bay all the way up to the Susquehanna River is the biggest spawning area of a 300-million-dollar Rockfish industry. Some fish are now polluted with canker sores and a variety of bacteria resistant diseases that can cause skin infections, lung and joint problems can be caused by the rockfish. It has even caused amputations in some watermen.

I understand that the Baltimore Harbor and its shipping channel needs to be dredged and that the material needs to be removed. However, that material must be removed in a safe way and placed in a contained area that won't impact our environment negatively. The Port brings in millions of dollars to our area and it comes at a cost, but it shouldn't come as a cost to citizens' wellbeing and rightful use of their property. The funds need to be used to come up with a less impactful method of dealing with that material than an open hole in the water where people recreate and live.

The MPA had been extremely negligent in communicating their plans to use the CAD to the citizens of North Anne Arundel County and to our legislative representatives. Only after being called on the carpet so to speak did they update their website with additional information. At the meetings we have attended we have been treated disrespectfully and told that we are not able to ask questions or express our concerns. It is my understanding based on research that there are currently no CAD sites that are located within residential communities and waterways. They are located next to industrial areas where the material was removed to limit the environmental impact.

The Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) will destroy an area that has rebounded significantly after years of decline. The project doesn't include a remediation plan in the event there is spillage which

I can't imagine there wouldn't be of the "contaminated dredge material" whether in the process or once in place. The "material" that is being removed to be replaced by the contaminated dredged material is needed by the Port Authority so that they use it to "fuel" their reuse program, but it is likened to strip mining. The materials that are being dredged out of the shipping channels is contaminated and not able to be used for that purpose in its current state. If the Port Authority continues as planned, they will be dredging wider channels which means a higher concentration of toxic contaminated material since it hasn't been dredged before.

The residents in our community deserve to be protected not have to endure further exposure and hazards.

Fort Smallwood has devoted millions of dollars to improving the beach areas and facilities for the community. No one will be able to use the facilities because of potential health and safety concerns. We are already flooded with chemical production and pollution, and it appears that the Maryland Port Authority would like to further injure the community.

We all pay taxes in Northern Anne Arundel County that are the same as other parts of the county that have little to no environmental negative contributors, and there is our community with all of the industrial polluters, power plants and the list goes on and on!

It is my opinion that Patapsco needs to have the most environmentally sensitive laws not the least! We have all worked so hard to improve our area and to see if destroyed is frightening to say the least.

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,

Gregory Sliviak – Rock Creek

2025 SB 168 Written Testimony for Senate hearing -

Uploaded by: John Garofolo

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 168 – SUPPORT

Senate Bill 168 – Environment - Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and Environment

My name is John Garofolo. I am a recently retired senior federal test and measurement scientist, an Anne Arundel Watershed Steward Academy (WSA) - Master Watershed Steward, a citizen environmentalist, a boater, and I have previously been on the board of directors of my community association. I have lived in the community of Stoney Beach for 20 years – a 62-acre peninsula community in Curtis Bay in Northern Anne Arundel County with 1.2 miles of shoreline bordering the Patapsco River, Stoney Creek, and Cox Creek. I have been engaging the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) through their Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee, their Citizens Advisory Committee, and their Innovative Reuse Committee for several years since they began constructing the enormous 237-acre diked dredge containment facility that is only 2 miles upriver from our community called the “Cox Creek Dredge Management Containment Facility (CC-DMCF).”

The Port of Baltimore is essential to Maryland and US commerce, and I greatly support its mission. Because of constant silt build up from erosion, channel, anchorage, and berth dredging are critical to keeping the Port open and safe for ship traffic. However, the safety of the disposal of the removed dredge material is crucial to the health and safety of the Patapsco and its waterways, the Chesapeake Bay, the tidal ecosystem, and the citizens and especially families with children that live on, use, and play in these waterways. **This is especially important because much of the dredge material removed from the Baltimore Harbor and Patapsco shipping channel is contaminated with highly toxic forever chemicals from past industrial dumping and continued runoff. And many of these chemicals are carcinogenic.** Harbor dredge material frequently contains heavy metals, petroleum, PCBs, PFAs, and other toxic “forever” chemicals. While levels recently generally don’t reach HAZMAT status, MPA must take special precautions in testing, containing, and dewatering it as required by law and regulation because much of it remains contaminated. The tidal Patapsco is also environmentally sequestered by law from the rest of the Chesapeake for dredge management because of known contamination of the riverbed near current and legacy industrial sites. As such, MPA may currently only dispose of dredge material from the Patapsco in land-based diked containment facilities adjoining the Patapsco.

Due to the projected expansion of Baltimore Harbor/Patapsco shipping and berthing channels and ongoing maintenance requirements, MPA has predicted a shortage of places to “contain” contaminated dredge material in the future beyond their 20-year rolling plan. As a result, in 2010, MPA began to explore an aquatic alternative to land-based facilities for dredge material containment called Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD). MPA created an initial CAD pilot in a ship berth adjoining their diked containment facility in Brooklyn called “Masonville Cove” in 2016. The pilot was in calm protected water in a ship berth in an already-contaminated industrial area and not reflective of the behavior or impacts of a CAD project in the open turbulent waters of the outer Patapsco near the Bay. MPA created their

“Innovative Reuse & Beneficial Use Program (IRBU)” program to promote both CAD and R&D in the potential reuse of dredge material. MPA’s 2019 DMMP annual report¹ indicated that they had initiated a process to identify potential sites for a pilot of an operationally-sized CAD installation in the Patapsco (MPA refers to the entire tidal Patapsco as “the Baltimore Harbor” - including outer Patapsco waters adjoining the Chesapeake and residential Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County shorelines.) MPA performed an initial internal assessment of CAD within their “Harbor Team” in 2011. MPA has clearly been working on these plans for years but had not communicated their plans with waterway communities or legislators for these communities on the tidal Patapsco beyond the Key Bridge. **MPA was negligent in sufficiently communicating their plans to use CAD to the citizens of North Anne Arundel County and to our legislative representatives. Moreover, they spent enormous amounts of taxpayer funds to support their CAD planning and research without public discourse.**

According to MPA, their planned implementation of CAD involves digging a hole in the riverbed (cell) up to 90 feet deep and up to 20 acres in size and removing clean sand from the cell to be used for other beneficial purposes and later dumping (contaminated) dredge in its place but not completely filling the cell to the top.² MPA does not plan to cap the deposited dredge because they believe that the placed sediment won’t drift and isn’t toxic enough to truly contain. MPA also doesn’t plan to use a silt curtain during its construction to limit dispersion of sediment and turbidity. Enormous amounts of healthy riverbed would be destroyed in CAD construction including all aquatic and riverbed life in and near the CAD cell. It’s unclear how much of the contaminants and turbidity in the dredge would be released into the river during filling or over time and how long it would take the disturbed ecosystem to recover. MPA specifically chose a location less than one mile off Stoney Creek/Rock Creek because it was largely uncontaminated, had appropriate sandy material to be mined, and could support a variety of MPA dredge reuse projects and MPA IRBU program company partners. While MPA and MDE seem to have no real definition for “confined” as it relates to formal containment of dredge material, **CAD would clearly not contain and control the contaminants the way that diked land-based dredge facilities do, and it is unclear how this would affect public health in nearby waterfront communities or the delicate ecosystems of one of the less-contaminated areas of the Patapsco as well as its nearby tidal tributaries.**

In my role of Watershed Steward, I began engaging MPA through their Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee (CCCOC) meeting in the Fall of 2022 to ask if they could provide clean (“MDE Category 1”³ – suitable for residential use) dredge material for a shoreline restoration project in my community. MPA was able to set aside dredge material removed from Cox Creek next to our community for the project.

¹ <https://mpa.maryland.gov/greenport/Documents/dmmpannualreview2018.pdf>

² <https://maryland-dmmp.com/innovative-solutions/confined-aquatic-disposal/>

³ <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/marylander/pages/dredging.aspx> and https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/marylander/Documents/Dredging/FINAL_IBR_GUIDANCE_12.05.2019_MDE.pdf (and Appendix 3 - Screening Criteria)

My community is now about to benefit from the MPA IRBU beneficial reuse program⁴ for our shoreline and MPA is highlighting it as a success. **I strongly support this form of beneficial reuse which doesn't create environmental harm.** MPA announced in their Spring 2023 CCCOC meeting that they planned to create a 20-acre outer Patapsco CAD pilot as part of a 220-acre potential site plan and this site would contain contaminated "MDE Category 2" dredge material ("Non-Residential Restricted Use Soil and Fill Material") and potentially even some "MDE Category 3" material ("Restricted Use Soil and Fill Material, Cap Required"). Note that the referenced MDE dredge material categorization and use guidance document does not address the re-use of dredge material in submerged applications – only in primarily land-based use and it is silent on CAD. **The enormous MPA CAD "pilot" site is planned for the Southern side of the outer Patapsco River less than 1 mile off Stoney Creek and Rock Creek and very close to my community of Stoney Beach and nearby Riviera Beach and other communities on those waterways. Potential likely extension of the site to its full size would bring it close to Fort Smallwood. It could potentially be as large as 166 football fields at depths of up to 90-feet deep under the river bed!**

I was so alarmed by this announcement, that I organized a meeting with MPA to meet with area citizens and our state and county legislators on June 1, 2023 and asked MPA to speak about their dredge management program, IRBU program, and CAD project and to take an hour of questions. **The meeting had over 150 participants including citizens from many Anne Arundel Patapsco waterway communities as well as all of our legislative representatives.** In that meeting, MPA did a poor job of explaining their plans and research and responding to questions from the citizens. Citizens asked many important technical questions regarding risk assessment, science, engineering, health and safety, environmental concerns, and for technical documentation which MPA could not adequately answer. **Both our citizens and our legislators expressed great concern about the soundness, safety, and transparency of the project. The citizens at the meeting also expressed how important the outer Patapsco and its Anne Arundel residential waterways (including Cox Creek, Stoney Creek, Nabbs Creek, Rock Creek, and Bodkin Creek spanning Pasadena and Curtis Bay and tens of miles of shoreline) are to the way of life for families living on and engaging with these waterways.** On any one nice summer day, you might see dozens of families swimming, boating, skiing, jet skiing, paddleboarding, fishing, and crabbing in the cove at the mouth of Stoney Creek and out into the Patapsco. Citizens in my community also fish almost all year and crab from our boardwalk – directly in line with the planned CAD project.

Our area state legislators, Senator Simonaire and Delegates Chisholm, Munoz, and Kipke quickly met with the MPA shortly after the meeting and published a press release stating that MPA agreed to pause the CAD project while our legislators worked to create legislation to stand up a statewide task force to investigate the use and location of CAD projects in Maryland. MPA held its own long-overdue citizen outreach meeting and open house several weeks later in July, 2023 in response to the June meeting. However, MPA provided essentially no new information and only took questions at tables outside of the

⁴ https://mpa.maryland.gov/greenport/documents/MDOT_MPA_IBR_FACT_SHEET%202021%20FINAL.pdf

formal part of the meeting. **MPA asserted in the meeting (and every meeting since) that they were only focused on pausing their CAD project to “improve their education and outreach”, but stated nothing regarding improving their science, transparency, and substantive citizen engagement until April, 2024.** I asked MPA at that meeting in 2023 if they would hold a technical briefing for scientists and engineers and interested citizens living near the planned site and they agreed, but didn’t follow through until June, 2024. This is not a matter of marketing. MPA has been largely tone deaf to citizen concerns. This is a matter of open science, peer and citizen review, and transparency and accountability.

In 2024 SB 353 and companion bill HB 886 were proposed by our area legislators to create an independent task force to study MPA’s CAD program, plans, and science. That bill passed in the Senate and would have ensured critically important independent oversight of MPA’s longstanding work on CAD and made recommendations to the General Assembly about the future of the program. Unfortunately, both bills failed to pass through the House Environment and Transportation Committee and were never permitted to have a floor vote – even with very significant citizen engagement. In response to the failed bill, 10 dedicated citizen scientists, environmentalists, and conservationists in Anne Arundel County created a volunteer citizen technical engagement team to engage with MPA on the technical background and risks of their CAD program. At the same time, MPA announced that it would create its own program review of CAD under its Bay Enhancement Working Group in a special CAD Subcommittee.

MPA then carefully selected the BEWG CAD subcommittee membership to specifically exclude all members of the citizen technical team – even though we were the most well-informed people regarding CAD beyond MPA and its contractors in the state – and several volunteered, including myself. MPA began its study in September, 2024 and it is continuing over the next several months.⁵ Unfortunately, with a few exceptions, most of the engagement in the study has been from the volunteer citizen technical team and other engaged citizens in public monthly MPA meetings with the subcommittee.

After having sat through tens of hours of meetings with MPA, read every MPA document related to dredge management and CAD, met with MPA and its CAD contractors in many of its public committee meetings and one private meeting with our group, heard many technical briefings from MPA and its contractors, and asked dozens of questions, our citizen team concluded that MPA’s research was fraught with unassessed risks with no real mitigation plans and we questioned its economic viability given the amount of material that would need to be placed in containment facilities removed from CAD sites compared to the amount of material that could be stored in the CAD sites. We questioned the environmental and economic acceptability of river mining in the Chesapeake. We questioned potentially significant impacts of CAD to water quality, benthic aquatic life, downstream aquatic and avian life higher in the food chain, and to nearby submerged aquatic vegetation and shorelines. Moreover, we

⁵ <https://maryland-dmmp.com/committees/bay-enhancement-working-group-cad-subcommittee-2/>

questioned the potential risk to human health from exposure to waterways that had been disturbed in the creation and filling of CAD sites and sediment drift due to the sometimes extreme and complex hydrodynamics of the outer Patapsco. Finally, we questioned the statutes that allow MPA to even lead and engage in such work.

We submitted our own assessment of our concerns regarding MPA's CAD work in an 86-slide presentation which MPA permitted us to present at their BEWG CAD subcommittee in October, 2024. We also conducted a citizen survey regarding CAD and included the results in our presentation. With nearly 300 responses from many Patapsco waterway residential communities represented, the survey showed that over 94% of the respondents unquestionably opposed CAD in the Patapsco. Our citizen team identified the following categories of risk and presented significant concerns and questions related to them:

1. Overarching and Programmatic risk
2. Environmental risk
3. Ecological risk
4. Human health risk
5. Structural risk
6. Measurement risk
7. Economic risk
8. Sustainability Risk
9. Stewardship and Trust risk

Our volunteer technical group submitted our concerns, questions, and comments in our presentations along with concerns, questions, and comments from citizen responses to our survey to MPA that resulted in 121 unique points of concern as determined by MPA which were reviewed in their January, 2025 BEWG CAD Subcommittee meeting. MPA has marked many highly relevant concerns as irrelevant or the responsibility of other agencies.

Our volunteer citizen team is concerned that this project has proceeded for 14 years at great expense to the taxpayers without proper oversight or engagement with impacted communities. Moreover, MPA has appeared to be tone deaf to evolving citizen perspectives regarding what is acceptable environmentally and they completely ignored the sociotechnical impacts of the program on nearby overburdened residential waterway communities. The one positive thing that has come out of our incredibly hard work is that MPA has improved its processes and publicly-available materials. It completely overhauled its website this past year in large part due to our concerns with its lack of information. And the BEWG CAD Subcommittee wouldn't exist if it weren't for our efforts. Unfortunately, MPA remains biased in its assessment of its program and the subcommittee is steered largely by MPA contractors who have worked on the CAD program who cannot have an independent perspective. This is highlighted by MPA declaring in its January meeting that its "team" of contractors would pre-fill the committee scoring

matrix for the program and give the evaluation to the subcommittee as a strawman to discuss at the next meeting for its final deliberations. The process is clearly biased. This is why it's incredibly important for there to be true independent technical assessment of MPA activities and R&D beyond the existing committee structure which has little impact.

For purposes of dredge management, MPA and the state of Maryland seem to see the Patapsco River as environmentally and ecologically disengaged from the greater Chesapeake. The Patapsco River and its many tidal tributary waterways are an important part of the Chesapeake Bay and its overall health. And the Patapsco is the most at-risk part of the Chesapeake Bay environmentally because of the great harms caused by industrial waste and sewage spills from the last 150+ years. **The Patapsco needs to have the most environmentally sensitive laws, regulation, and oversight - not the least.** And 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 or its residential communities.**

Moreover, the Key Bridge collapse, cleanup, and rebuild and creation of Tradeport Atlantic is already creating huge additional burdens to the river that will decrease the amount of untouched river bed. As industry continues to encroach on the Patapsco River and health grades for the river continue to be poor, MPA should be making as light a footprint as possible on the river as possible. **Instead of continuing to destroy the river, MPA should be creating more living shorelines and protected reefs, submerged aquatic wetlands, and fish nurseries.** Risks aside, **I can't fathom how it's okay to destroy hundreds of acres of healthy riverbed in an already highly distressed Chesapeake tidal estuary near already environmentally-overburdened residential communities.**

Our area in Zip Code 21226 has too long been the state's dumping ground and has been cited as one of the most polluted Zip Codes in the nation. Our community sits within just hundreds of feet of the Brandon Shores and Wagner coal and fossil fuel power generation stations which are now being kept activated because of the state's energy resiliency problems and the Cox Creek wastewater treatment plant, and just upstream from us is the enormous expanding MPA Cox Creek Dredge Material Containment facility, its future STAR facility with new polluters, a petroleum/asphalt processing plant, a chemical plant, multiple toxic material dumps, the horribly polluting Curtis Bay Energy medical incinerator which is the largest in the country, the CSX coal terminal, and even a radioactive Superfund site. And, we are only two and a half miles directly across the Patapsco from Sparrows Point in which cleanup operations from the pollution from Bethlehem Steel have been ongoing for years. And there are countless other highly contaminated legacy pollution sites within our Zip Code.

John S. Garofolo | johngstoneybeach@gmail.com

These sources of pollution impact nearby waterway communities in Pasadena and Glen Burnie and across the river in Dundalk, Sparrows Point, Edgemere, and North Point. The tides, waves, winds, and currents know no bounds. **This CAD project is an environmental injustice to an already over-burdened waterway and over-burdened communities. State dredge management needs to be better balanced with environmental justice. MPA stewardship programs do not make up for environmental injustices that they create. Despite the state's regulatory view, our waterways ARE an important ecological part of the Chesapeake Bay and they're extremely important to our communities and to Chesapeake Bay restoration priorities and efforts.**

I strongly support Senate Bill 168 and its commitment to environmental justice for overburdened communities in the Patapsco. This bill is a landmark for future bills that regulate and evaluate the deployment of polluters based on objective cumulative environmental impact to nearby communities and waterways. It is of utmost importance that further environmental injustice to overburdened communities is not committed by the state in the name of cost, convenience, and hubris.

Sincerely,

John S. Garofolo

Stoney Beach, Curtis Bay, MD

John S. Garofolo | johngstoneybeach@gmail.com

SB168 - CASA Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jose Coronado Flores

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB168
Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act
Senate - Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
Jose Coronado-Flores , On Behalf of CASA

January 28th, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of SB168 - Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act**. CASA is the largest immigrant services and advocacy organization in Maryland, and in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 60,000 Black and Latino immigrants and working families in Maryland. We would like to thank Senator Simonaire for bringing this bill. CASA urges a favorable report for 2 reasons: SB168 utilizes the Department of the Environment's critical data on overburdened populations; SB168 also aims to protect communities that are already overburdened from another contaminated site.

To illustrate the use of the overburdened percentile as determined by MDE, I will use the Curtis Bay community as an example. For the 21226 zip code, which has census tracts in both Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County, residents live in an area where census tracts rank in the top 99 percentile and even the 100 percentile census tract for burden. This zip code and these census tracts are where many active CASA members find themselves. The overburdened score measures health outcomes and exposure to pollution. Some key indicators that are built into the percentile include proximity to hazardous waste sites, proximity to water discharge sites, low-birth weight among newborns, proximity to brownfields, and proximity to emitting power plants.

SB168 operates on the idea that overburdened communities need to be remediated instead of potentially being sites for contaminated sediment, waste, and generally harmful sites and facilities. The bill specifies that its environmental justice provision is for CADs that store contaminated sediments. Usually, CADs store sediment from nearby harbors or areas that need to be dredged. Take Curtis Bay for example, it is completely surrounded by facilities that discharge into the Harbor, the Patapsco River, and Gwynn Falls. The watersheds mentioned were given D and F ratings in terms of water quality by Blue Water Baltimore in 2023¹. If further dredging and the standard practice of utilizing CADs in close proximity were to occur, the likelihood of contaminated sediments is extremely high from wastewater treatment plants, stormwater run-off from the industrial area, and decades of environmental degradation especially from facilities like the CSX terminal and nearby landfills.

Dredging occurs for the convenience of commerce in Baltimore's Port, but digging up this toxic sediment and placing it on the coast adjacent to communities that already bear the brunt of countless water, air, and land pollutants cannot be standard practice. For these reasons, CASA urges a favorable report.

Jose Coronado-Flores
Research and Policy Analyst
jcoronado@wearecasa.org, 240-393-7840

¹ <https://bluewaterbaltimore.org/2023reportcard/>

SB 168 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 168 - CAD Protections

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 168.

As you are aware from last sessions' Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) legislation, I have been trying to work with the Port Administration over the proposed dumping of toxic Baltimore Harbor dredge material in front of our overburden communities.

These are the same communities that have had to deal with multiple coal burning power plants being built within a stone's throw, having hazardous and toxic dumping areas being constructed in their back yards, multi-million-gallon sewage plants built intertwined within their communities and a land-based massive dredge containment area right next door.

Thankfully our efforts have put a temporary pause on the CAD pilot program that was going full steam ahead until our community found out about it.

Remember, this was going to be a test to see if the concept works in larger areas and more volatile currents. If the tests didn't go well, then my district communities would have been devastated.

So based on my legislation, the Department organized their own internal workgroup and invited us to be part of it.

While they have been very gracious, it feels more like they are just going through the motions to get to their desired outcome.

So, here we are today with new legislation to try to help communities that have been constantly dumped on in various ways for decades.

At some point, we have to say enough is enough and provide a little environmental justice.

Many of these families have lived there for decades and while they aren't wealthy waterfront owners with mansions, they are good commonsense folks who love their families and want to protect them. If they were mansions, I guarantee the Port Administration would have never selected this area.

So, this bill prohibits approving the construction of CAD cells, if they are located within 5 miles of a residential overburdened community.

A 'overburdened community' is defined in Maryland law, and it is basically a community that is already dealing with excessive environmental waste from former decisions and placement of toxic materials.

This bill is in response to the State constantly dumping more in areas that have high levels of environmental health concerns.

This is not new as there is a prohibition on dumping dredge material within 5 miles of the Hart Miller Island. Now, Hart Miller Island is a state park and Maryland wanted to maintain its beauty and environmental cleanliness, so they banned dumping anymore dredge material including CAD cells.

Do our overburdened communities deserve any less protection than out State parks?

What I am asking for is a statewide prohibition of approving the construction of CAD cells in areas that have already been the target of excessive environmentally harmful materials for decades.

Let Marylanders know that the goal of environmental justice isn't just protections from private industries, but also from state agencies participating in those same damaging practices.

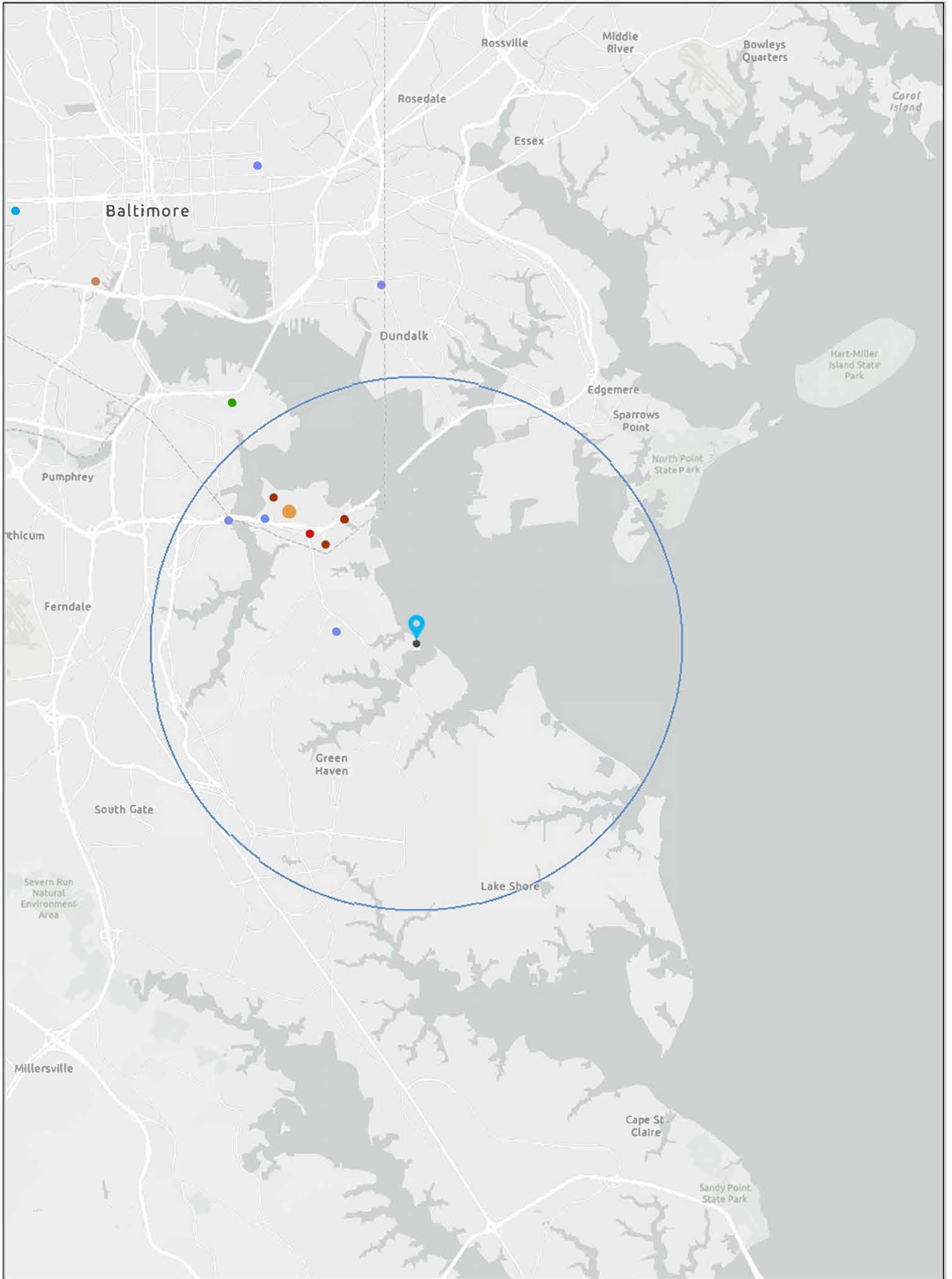
For all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.

SB 168 StoneyBeach_NearbySWFacilities.pdf

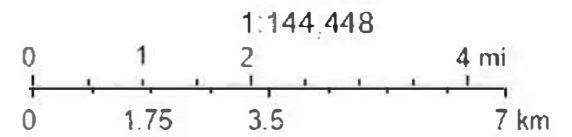
Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

Stoney Beach - Nearby Solid Waste Facilities



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Municipal Solid Waste Acceptance Facilities All Permitted Solid Waste Acceptance Facilities ● Industrial Landfill ● Land Clearing Debris Landfill ● Medical Waste Incinerator ● Municipal Solid Waste Landfill ● Municipal Solid Waste Landfill & Processing Facility ● Municipal Solid Waste Landfill & Processing Facility & Transfer Station | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Municipal Solid Waste Landfill & Transfer Station ● Processing Facility ● Processing Facility & Transfer Station ● Rubble / Construction & Demolition Landfill ● Solid Waste Incinerator ● Special Medical Waste Processing Facility ● Transfer Station ● Waste to Energy / MSW Incinerator |
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County of Anne Arundel, VGIN, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, LMA, MDE

County	AI_ID	AI Name	Facility Type	Owner Type	Permit Number	Physical Address
Anne Arundel	11541	Biomedical Waste Services, Inc.	Processing Facility & Transfer Station	Private (Commercial)	2016-WPT-0676	7610 Energy Pkwy, Curtis Bay, MD 21226
Anne Arundel	23330	Curtis Creek Processing Facility & Transfer Station	Processing Facility & Transfer Station	Private (Commercial)	2018-WPT-0539	23 Stahl Point Rd, Curtis Bay, MD 21226
Baltimore City	2102	W. R. Grace & Co. - Davison Chemical	Industrial Landfill	Private (Commercial)	2017-WIF-0613	5500 Chemical Rd, Curtis Bay, MD 21226-1698
Baltimore City	22198	Hawkins Point Plant (HPP) Industrial Waste Landfill	Industrial Landfill	Private (Commercial)	2019-WIF-0527A	3901 Fort Armistead Road , Baltimore, MD 21226
Baltimore City	100995	Fort Armistead Road - Lot 15 Landfill	Industrial Landfill	Private (Commercial)	2018-WIF-0653	3601 Fort Armstead Rd, Baltimore, MD 21226
Baltimore City	439	Curtis Bay Energy, LP	Medical Waste Incinerator	Private (Commercial)	2017-WMI-0036	3200 Hawkins Point Road, Baltimore, MD 21226
Baltimore City	8713	Stericycle, Inc	Processing Facility & Transfer Station	Private (Commercial)	2016-WPT-0677	5901 Chemical Rd, Curtis Bay, MD 21226
Baltimore City	13670	Quarantine Road Municipal Landfill	Municipal Solid Waste Landfill	Municipal Government	2019-WMF-0325	6100 Quarantine Road, Curtis Bay, MD 21226

2025 Testimony Kelly Hunt SB 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Kelly Hunt

Position: FAV

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 Kelly Hunt. I live in the community of Riviera Beach, Pasadena in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the impacts of confined aquatic disposal (CAD).

As a boater, crabber, fisher, swimmer, kayaker and viewer of all the local waterways for 56 years, I am concerned about the potential ecological and environmental impacts to our waterways and communities.

It is crucial to ensure that these disposal methods do not disproportionately affect vulnerable communities or compromise water quality and marine ecosystems

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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Hunt

Riviera Beach, Pasadena MD

2025 Testimony SB 168_Merkel.pdf

Uploaded by: Kristen Merkel

Position: FAV

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

2025 Testimony SB168 (Leigh Priest).pdf

Uploaded by: Leigh Whitmore-Priest

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 168 – SUPPORT

Senate Bill 353 – Environmental Justice in CAD

My name is Leigh Whitmore-Priest. 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. When the COVID pandemic devastated my family with the death of my mother and severely disabling my brother we decided it was time to make a change in our lives. In the fall of 2020, we sold our house that we lived in for 23 years and bought a piece of property on Rock Creek. We spent a substantial portion of our savings to rebuild a house on a neglected piece of property. The transformation was profound. Not only did it improve the neighborhood that we lived in it also contributed to preserving the tidal wetlands.

This past fall we spent a significant amount of money to add rip rap to our shoreline to prevent land erosion and water pollution caused by run off. This home improvement project was scrutinized by the Maryland Department of Environment. I spent a significant amount of time and effort to obtain permits and a license to move forward with the work effort. In addition, I had to enter a contractual arrangement with the Maryland Department of Environment that contractually obligated me to protect the tidal wetlands and obtain approval before making any changes. 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, children, 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 by the Maryland Port Authority and their experts. It was disclosed to the residents during the meeting 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 as well as fish from our creek. It is no secret that there are carcinogens in the dredged water. My father worked at Bethlehem Steel and the shipyard for over 30 years, He suffered significantly from medical issues due to the exposure of toxic waste in the water. His medical conditions ranged from Mesothelioma, COPD, Congestive Heart failure and Leukemia. All confirmed diagnoses attributed 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.

Due to the significant safety concerns outlined above it is critically important that the proposed Senate Bill 168 be moved into legislation.

Sincerely,

Leigh Whitmore-Priest

Rockview Beach

2025 Testimony Template SB 168 (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Phipps

Position: FAV

Lisa Phipps phipps9202@comcast.net

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 Lisa Phipps. I live in the Elizabeth’s Landing Community in Northern Anne Arundel County. I am also the HOA Treasurer.

I am in support of Senator Simonaire’s bill. I have lived in Elizabeth’s Landing (686 townhomes with over 2000 residents) since 2018 and I am deeply invested in my community. We have access to Stoney Creek at Elizabeth’s Landing and I am very much against the placement of dredging material in the Patapsco. As a leader of the Waterfront Committee for the community, I have coordinated the design of a living shoreline for Elizabeth’s Landing that we expect to be constructed in March that will address some erosion problems we are having at the waterfront. This project will also provide habitat for marine life, capture sediment, and filter pollution in Stoney Creek. Personally, I also own 2 kayaks and use the waterfront regularly. We already have several entities in the area that pollute our waterways such as Brandon Shores and the Wagner fossil fuel power plant. Let’s stop dumping in 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,

Lisa Phipps

Elizabeth’s Landing Community Association Treasurer

CAD January 2025 Lisa.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Wendling

Position: FAV

January 24, 2025

My name is Lisa Wendling, I live on the water on Rock Creek, Northern Anne Arundel County. My husband and I have dreamed of living on the water since 1985. We were finally able to move on the water on Rock Creek in 2017. We have a beautiful house on the water and enjoy boating, swimming, crabbing off our pier, fishing off our pier and paddle boarding.

My father, William Polczynski, 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 the flowing water that will impact the surrounding residents.

My concerns with the CAD program are the risks associated with the dredge that is highly toxic and contaminated with forever chemicals that are carcinogenic. For decades the water in this area has been contaminated due to sewage overflow. We are finally seeing improvements in the waterways.

We are against having the CAD in any residential area. We need to save our waterways from this toxic carcinogenic.

Thank you,

Lisa Wendling

Support SB 168 Feb 2025 ..pdf

Uploaded by: Marguerite Whilden

Position: FAV

Marguerite Whilden
The Terrapin Institute
mwhilden@comcast.net
410 370 9171
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,

Marguerite Whilden
410 370 9171

2025 Testimony SB 168_Smith.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Smith

Position: FAV

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 Michael Smith 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,

Michael Smith

Clearwater Beach/Orchard Beach

SB 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Robin Lyate

Position: FAV

SB 168 Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act - Support

I live on the Magothy River in Pasadena Maryland and I recently became aware of the CAD program slated for the Patapsco River/Chesapeake Bay and it's detrimental impact on the environment we live in. How a project in the making for nearly two years could have gone undetected in our community is truly unbelievable. They applied for and were granted permits without so much as a conversation with the community they will be impacting. Unacceptable.

Although I live on the Magothy River and will not be directly impacted by this recent reckless proposition, it is only a matter of time before these harmful impacts make its way to my front door. A front door being the waterways where my family lives, boats, swims, crabs and any other activity that we can do on the water. We live on the water so we can enjoy the benefits of swimming in our own waters, crabbing off our own piers, and fishing in the River we call home as well as the Chesapeake Bay without the uncertainty of being slowly poisoned. We don't live here for free.....we pay the price for this luxury and the CAD program will absolutely disrupt sediment habitats, release toxic pollutants and affect the erosion of the riverbanks. My children and grandchildren swim in these waters!

Although I did not attend the town meeting in the second quarter of 2023, I personally know at least 15 people who did attend and it was clear there was no coordination with the Community or County Representatives who did attend. When our County Representatives stand up and say they have no knowledge of this proposal, clearly there is a problem. They were completely unprepared to answer the simplest questions as well as unable to explain the effects on the environment or our health. We need answers.

Due to their irresponsible oversimplification/misstatements presented, it is gravely important that any task force should be a joint team of independent experts in health, science and environmental impact as well as nonpartisan experts in CAD and their reports should be coordinated with our County legislators. All results should be presented in a public forum to allow residents who are directly impacted to understand how their findings will impact their health, waterways and ultimately the value of our homes. We all have to advocate for environmentally conscious

practices that protect our cherished waterways and the health and well being of the residents who live here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Robin Lyate

2025 Testimony Template SB 168 Ruth (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Ruth Ann Thuman

Position: FAV

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 Ruth Ann Thuman I live in the community of Riviera Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I live on Bay Rd. I have lived in the community for 65 years. I enjoy the waterfront. I enjoy the wildlife (dolphins, sea life, birds, etc.) My kids and grandkids use the water and I'm concerned about the health of the water and any damage this may do.

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,

Ruth Ann Thuman
8559 Bay Rd
Pasadena, MD 21122 - Riviera Beach

2025 Testimony Ruth Sliviak SB 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Ruth Sliviak

Position: FAV

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 Ruth Sliviak. I live on the waterfront of Rock Creek in Northern Anne Arundel County. My husband and I purchased our property over 30 years ago and built our dream home between Maryland Yacht Club and Fairview Marina 10 years ago. We have been avid boaters, water skiers, kayakers, and swimmers for over 40 years. We also enjoy crabbing and fishing in the area. We have seen so many positive changes within the 10 years that we have been living here regarding the water quality. We have 7 grandchildren who love coming to stay with us so that they can build beautiful childhood memories and play out in nature, safely. It is a common sight and part of our area’s long-term culture and history, to see families enjoying boating in Stoney Creek, Rock Creek and the Patapsco River. Individual fisherman, charter fisherman, recreational crabbers, and commercial crabbers habitually frequent these waterways.

When we built our waterfront home we had to pay almost \$100,000 in additional costs because of the storm water management requirements, Best available technology for our septic system, and the cost of reforestation to protect the bay. How can you justify those requirements and then allow MPA to disturb and destroy without regard.

The negative health and environmental damage that would sweep the area should the CAD project be allowed, would be absolutely devastating to locals’ way of life, leisure activities as well as to the natural world. I would no longer feel safe, living, swimming, or recreating in our area because of the short term and long-term effects of the CAD project. The disruption to the area would be extensive, not only affecting the water, but the surrounding residential areas and woodland habitats of native species of animals. This issue pales in comparison to the concerns of the toxicity of the material and method but is still a concern worthy of attention and consideration. The economic repercussions of instituting this project would be catastrophic to the local business community - specifically the restaurants and marinas in the area. The negative impact of this project would certainly decrease the values of our waterfront homes - affecting families, retirements, and long-term financial planning of those of us who chose to live in this community because of its beauty, stability, and safety.

I understand that the Baltimore Harbor and its shipping channel needs to be dredged and that the material needs to be removed. However, that material must be removed in a safe way and placed in a contained area that will not impact our environment negatively. The port generates billions of dollars for our State and the businesses that are here. That does come at a cost, but it certainly shouldn’t cost us our ability to have a safe environment and hinder us from living and enjoying our property and waterways.

The Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) will destroy an area that has rebounded significantly after years of decline. The project does not include a remediation plan in the event there is spillage whether in the water or in the air which I can’t imagine there wouldn’t be of the “contaminated dredge material” whether in the process or once in place. The “material” that is being removed to be replaced by the contaminated dredged material is needed by the Port Authority so that they use it to “fuel” their reuse program, but it is likened to strip mining. The material that is being dredged out of the shipping channels is highly contaminated with PCBs, PFOAs, and other forever chemicals and not able to be used for that purpose in its current state. What testing will be done to that material and by who, an MPA hired contractor who will be financially rewarded with a contract?

It is my opinion that Patapsco needs to have the most environmentally sensitive laws not the least. We have all worked so hard to improve our area and to see it destroyed is reckless and irrational. Why are our tax rates that same as other parts of the county that do not have any of the environmental issues that we are exposed to and forced to endure.

The efforts to restore the Patapsco River have made significant strides over the last decade and to think that it will be thrown down the drain with a project like CAD is unfathomable. The organized environmental groups working so hard, our taxpayer dollars used to support the efforts and the laws in place to improve the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers that run into it is environmental injustice at its worst!

Our area is already so overburdened by all of the years of Industry as well as Coal burning facilities to generate electricity that are causing emissions that are damaging to our health, why would we want to do more damage?

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,

Ruth Sliviak

Rock Creek

2025 Testimony SB 168.docx - Google Docs.pdf

Uploaded by: Sandra Roberts

Position: FAV

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 Sandra Roberts. I live at 7648 Water Oak Point Rd in Northern Anne Arundel County directly on Rock Creek. The property I reside on has been in my husbands family for over 100 years and many generations have enjoyed all aspects of the Chesapeake Bay and it's watershed. My husband and son also hold a Commercial Crabbing License. Many members of the community come to my property to enjoy fishing, swimming, kayaking, boating, playing in the sand, feeding the ducks, assisting with growing Oysters and enjoying the sunsets. We often enjoy meals provided right off our pier or out on our boat. It is truly a special place. A place where kids leave their phones inside and spend hours outside. It is detrimental to my family, the community, the waterman, and the wildlife that depend on and enjoy these waterways. We actively pick up trash, wood, and participate in Oyster growing to help protect and clean our waters. We teach others about the importance of this and encourage environmental preservation. Passing this bill will help ensure that the health of our Bay, Rivers and Creeks are preserved. This bill will help the Waterways on both shores and is far reaching to affect multiple jurisdictions if passed.

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,

**Sandra Roberts
Water Oak Point Rd
Rock Creek**

2025 Testimony SB 168 (Shane Troyer).pdf

Uploaded by: Shane Troyer

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 168 – SUPPORT

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

My name is Shane Troyer. 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,

Shane Troyer

Rockview Beach

Susan Greene Testimony SB 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Susan Greene

Position: FAV

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 Susan Greene. I live in the waterfront community of Nabbs and Stoney Creek in Northern Anne Arundel County. I moved to Maryland from New Hampshire three years ago and have grown to love the natural beauty, the abundant seafood, and the joy of the Stoney Creek area. I am the mother of three adult children and a grandmother. I believe that one of the most important things that we can do for our children and grandchildren is to leave them a beautiful, healthy environment.

The Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) project by the Maryland Port Authority would lead to dumping of dredge material contaminated with heavy metals, petroleum, PFAs, and other toxic forever chemicals over a 20-acre area off of Stoney Creek. The Maryland Port Authority plans to expand this 20-acre site to an area of up to 220 acres moving towards Fort Smallwood at the mouth of Stoney Creek.

I am concerned about impact of the CAD project on

- water quality in the Patapsco River, Stoney Creek, and Rock Creek being affected by the scraping of sand off the dump site, dumping the dredge material, and leaving the CAD site uncovered.
- aquatic plant life that will be devastated by the dredge sediment deposited on the CAD site and the sediment that then drifts throughout the mouth of the Patapsco River, Stoney Creek, Nabbs Creek, Rock Creek and nearby areas of the Chesapeake Bay
- marine wildlife (fish, crabs, oysters, and other species) living in and around the CAD dump site as well as the recreational and commercial fishing in the area
- the birds, other animals, and people that feed on the aquatic plant life and marine wildlife that are impacted by the dredge dumping
- recreational use and potential health problems due to contact (swimming, boating, water sports, etc) with contaminated water
- noise and disruption to the Patapsco River and Stoney Creek areas related to the disposal operation

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,

Susan Greene - Nabbs and Stoney Creek

Dredging.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Kerr

Position: FAV

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 Thomas Kerr. I live in the community of Riviera Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I live in Riviera Beach, Pasadena, Md and are a block away from the Chesapeake Bay where they plan to dump dredging material. I have attended several meetings and it's not clear if this has ever been tried or is safe. No one can give constructive information on whether this is safe or what lasting affects it will bring.

This area south of the Key Bridge already has mounds of dredge on the shoreline that may be going into our Bay.

I walk along the water daily and our grandchildren wade in the water and fish. Our dog swims in the water and we all eat crabs from this Bay. If this happens we will no longer feel safe doing any of this. Try to tell an nine year old boy it is no longer safe to fish in this beautiful Bay. My wife and I have lived in Riviera Beach all of our lives since 1957 and have enjoyed the Bay. Please do not allow this to happen to many folks who also enjoy this area with their loved ones.

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,

Thomas Kerr
Riviera Beach

SB 168

Uploaded by: Thomas Marston

Position: FAV

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 Thomas Marston. I live in the community of Lombardee Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I became a Master Watershed Steward in 2018 to support the County’s policy to support environmental best practices. I did not learn that dumping my trash on someone else’s backyard is the best policy for addressing environmental problems.

I live on the water, and I see a significant improvement in water quality due to the growth of aquatic vegetation. I also support programs that grow baby oysters known as spat at my dock. I know that these baby oysters will be placed in Patapsco River and support additional efforts to improve water quality.

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,

Thomas Marston

986 Nabbs Creek Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060

20250124_Senate Bill 168 support ltr_Ball.pdf

Uploaded by: William Ball

Position: FAV

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 William Parks Ball; I live in the Cape St. John community of Anne Arundel County and have been a Maryland citizen and taxpayer since 1992 and lived in Baltimore County until 2016.

I am an Emeritus Professor of Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, where I previously worked as a Full Professor between 1992 and 2019, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and overseeing research in the areas of water quality assessment and modeling, specifically focusing on contaminant fate and transport in aquatic systems and engineered water treatment. Applications of this work related to both engineered and natural systems, and in the last ten years of this career I focused most heavily on water quality issues in Chesapeake Bay. I have overseen millions of dollars of federal, state, and NGO supported research projects in these areas and been the recipient of numerous national awards from professional organizations and federal agencies. Through this work, I have had the privilege of working with some of the best minds in the field and have authored or co-authored well over 300 technical publications and national- or international-level presentations, including over 100 peer-reviewed publications in well-respected technical journals. I was Executive Director of the Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) for the five years between January 2015 and January 2020. This position, which included a role as Executive Secretary for the Scientific Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, allowed me to obtain a deep understanding of the partnership’s now 41-year long effort to manage the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay’s water quality and living resources.

Prior to my academic career, I worked for a private environmental engineering consulting firm for six years and rose to the level of Supervising Engineer. During this time, I held Professional Engineering Licenses in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, but have subsequently allowed these to expire.

Subsequent to my retirement from the CRC in 2020, I have earned certification as a Master Watershed Steward with the Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Association, through which I now volunteer my time to help communities and fellow citizens to design and implement watershed improvement projects with objectives of improving local ecosystems and protecting state waters while also adding to land value and community welfare. Finally, it is also relevant that I have been regularly sailing the waters of the Chesapeake Bay for over sixty years and know many of its tributaries and vast coastline well, from Lynnhaven Inlet in Virginia Beach to the Susquehanna Flats. I am presently an active member of Eastport Yacht Club in Annapolis, Maryland, and currently coordinate extensive Educational and Outreach initiatives for the club’s Environmental Committee.

I support Senate Bill 168 for environmental, economic, and societal/cultural reasons. Three categories of concern are listed below, in order of decreasing relevance to my own areas of professional expertise. For each of these -- and especially the first -- I could provide much more detailed discussion but do not consider that appropriate for this simple letter of support.)

- **CAD's environmental impact.**

There is no question that the application of CAD technology will have adverse impacts on water quality and living resources (fish, shellfish, subaquatic vegetation and the large body of smaller organisms that support such life) wherever it is applied. Based on all I have been able to learn (from data collected and shared to date), the level of harm is most likely to be very high and the time to full recovery of the harm done (after all operations cease) will be measured in terms of decades rather than weeks or months.

It is also important to note that *no environmental benefits* of CAD (relative to other currently practicable disposal options) have to my knowledge ever been identified. Moreover, proving otherwise with any reasonable (>50%) level of confidence would take decades of research costing many millions of dollars and with levels of effort far beyond those currently being applied or even discussed.

It is my professional opinion that the complexities and uncertainties associated with understanding the risks of CAD for large estuarine water bodies such as the Chesapeake are too great to accept. Such complexities and uncertainties exist in all the following areas:

- toxicity of the chemical contaminants in sediments to marine life as well as humans.
- fate of sediment-bound chemical contaminants when those chemicals.

Release amounts and rates are extremely complex and uncertain to predict and especially so because they vary with the physical and chemical properties of the sediments themselves and vary with chemistry and other factors in different ways for different contaminants.

- distribution and location of the most contaminated sediments.

This is a very complex and uncertain question, especially regarding the full suite of legacy contaminants, both known and unknown. High concentrations in individual sediment layers can lead to toxicity to animals from suspended particles, yet remain undetected owing to dilution from other uncontaminated particles, so high resolution sampling is needed. Also, many of the contaminated sediments have now been deeply buried by subsequent deposits and are hopefully no longer doing harm; however, excavation and re-exposure to waterways is risky and poorly understood.¹

¹ For CAD to make any sense at all, some formerly clean sand must be replaced by contaminated dredge material. But in regions such as the lower Patapsco (off Sparrows Point) a significant portion of the mud deposits above the sand (and some of the sand itself) will also contain legacy contaminants. During both excavation and filling of the CAD cells, contaminated sediments and associated pore water will be passing through the water column and it is impossible to avoid some loss of solids and even greater losses of the porewater and associated contaminants. All the deposited dredge material will have already been classified under state criteria as being unacceptable for most uses and levels of risk are very poorly understood. Issues include the applicability of standard "leach-test" conditions to simulate the range of possible real leaching conditions as well as some very serious universally applicable uncertainties about the composition, concentrations, and toxicity of water contaminants as related to humans, much less to the full suite of marine organisms.

- the hydrodynamics affecting contamination spread throughout the water column and along adjacent shorelines.
Even the best computer models struggle with the details of water turbulence and the manner in which it interacts with sediments. There are many uncertainties here, yet to be resolved, even for cases where wind and rain conditions are known or safely assumed (which is rarely the case).
- the processes of recovery for hundreds of acres of disturbed bottom, including processes of continued erosion from and sedimentation onto such surfaces.
- the process of recovery for the many organisms living within bottom sediments and that also serve as habitat and food for fish and other species in the water column
- the processes that may allow sediments within CAD cells to spread subsequently into the environment, either via groundwater flowing laterally through the cells, via upward diffusion, or through erosion of sediments into the water column.
- the changing nature of “average” and “extreme” weather conditions that will impact the above-mentioned hydrodynamics and processes.

The point here is not just that science is complex and that our best predictions are always uncertain. The point is that these facts are highly relevant for contamination and toxicity questions in the Chesapeake and that uncertainties are unusually high. Moreover, the concept of CAD (the idea of excavating and refilling large holes in the estuary bottom) is a new one for which we have very little practical experience or empirical data to inform us.

To repeat: It is my professional opinion that the complexities and uncertainties associated with understanding the risks of CAD for large estuarine water bodies such as the Chesapeake and its tributaries are too great to accept. This would be true even the economic benefits well defined or clearly articulated, but in the case of CAD they are not, as discussed below.

CAD’s economic impact.

CAD will create a strong negative impact on communities bordering the waters where it is applied. In addition to its likelihood of creating a long-term (decades long) degradation of the waters and river bottoms in and over which these communities work and recreate, the operations of creating and filling CAD cells will be highly disruptive, and environmental harm will be especially noticeable during these periods. During times of active excavation and deposition, boating and fishing will be diverted away from large areas of the waterway well beyond the already busy deep channels. As a result, negative impacts can be expected for marinas, fishing charter operators, recreational fisherman, recreational sailors, and especially those undertaking water contact sports. High concentrations of dispersed sediment will occur during all the many periods of sediment excavation, deposition, and hauling. (Current regulations do not prevent this and no upgraded plans of operation have yet been proposed or tested.)

Beyond this, there is also a very significant concern that there may also be very little, if any, economic advantages of CAD over options of innovative reuse or other available alternatives for disposal of “waste” dredge material. I believe other testimony from other experts may be able to more specifically address these concerns, but it is my understanding that the costs of all the extra

dredging operations will far outweigh any economic gain from having obtained a new source of sandy material.

CAD's social and cultural impact.

As noted in the sections above, the so-called “Confined Aquatic Disposal’ (CAD)” approach for managing dredged materials (“spoils”) is likely to have very substantial adverse effects on the ecological well-being of any waters where it is applied within the Chesapeake Bay while also creating economic burdens, first to the entire state (owing to its oversized cost), but also an especially high economic and “quality of life” cost on the communities along the shorelines where it occurs. Frankly, in lieu of SB 168, I would prefer to see a bill that bans the use of CAD throughout any region of the Chesapeake Bay -- at least until the necessary body scientific and engineering understanding can be obtained to *assure* minimal environmental risk with a high level of uncertainty. But until that time, Senate Bill 168 is an important step that will at least protect the communities and individuals who are already bearing an unfair share of the costs of keeping the Maryland and national economic engines running.

Finally, there are two other potential perverse and negative impacts of implementing CAD within the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries:

- 1) The implementation of CAD will represent a state-endorsed counter activity to the benefits that the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership has been achieving, particularly as related to sediment pollution. Imagine the discouragement to the many watershed stewards who have been working hard in “Critical Areas” and other coastal regions to reduce sediment runoff to tributaries, not to mention the resentments of those who have been fined for failing to meet existing regulations.
- 2) The implementation of CAD will put the State of Maryland into the business of excavating sand for purposes of “beneficial reuse,” thus taking away a source of income from many private enterprises who are either excavating sand themselves (hopefully from more environmentally benign places) or exploring innovative methods of creating alternative “aggregate” materials for use in concrete and various construction and restoration projects. (At least one such “Innovative Reuse” contractor is currently receiving support from the Maryland Port Authority for research and development purposes.)

Summary

Overall, I very strongly support the passing of Senate Bill 168. It is my professional opinion (sincere and strongly held) that the so-called “Confined Aquatic Disposal’ (CAD)” approach to dredge material management, at its current state of development, is very likely to have very substantial adverse effects on the ecological well-being of any waters where it is applied within the Chesapeake Bay while also creating additional economic burden on the state and will also

have negative economic impacts on communities near the waters where it is applied. At best, it is still very poorly understood for the Chesapeake Environment.

Within that context, it would be especially inappropriate and unjust to allow the application of CAD near areas that are already overburdened with environmental and economic harms that derive from activities that primarily benefit other regional, state and/or national populations.

Additionally, the passing of this bill may prevent the Maryland Port Authority from wasting more state funds on this ill-conceived CAD notion. Even if it only moves the concept of CAD to regions outside of the Patapsco River, it will help focus more attention toward better understanding CAD's impact before testing it on any large scale.

Finally, and in light of recent federal developments, I will note the importance of differentiating concerns about *injustice* (such as this) from concerns that others have expressed regarding affirmative action – i.e. actions affirmatively aimed at righting past wrongs in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). In this regard – and despite my personal belief that DEI measures are valuable assets for any community, business, or government – it is clear that Senate Bill 168 is about environmental *justice*, and not about DEI (even in a “disguised” way).

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration of these remarks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William P. Ball". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

William P. Ball, Ph.D.
141 Island View Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401

2025 Testimony n.sandonato SB 168.pdf

Uploaded by: Nicole Sandonato

Position: UNF

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 Nicole Sandonato, I live in the community of Riveria Beach in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I live on Rock Creek and recently had a son. He will grow up on and in this body of water. Keeping them safe and clean is extremely important to not only his health but so many others. Not to mention the wild and marine life that lives in and off this body of water.

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,

Nicole Sandonato
Riveria Beach

MDE SB168 INFO.pdf

Uploaded by: Les Knapp

Position: INFO



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 168
Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act***

Position: Informational
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Date: January 28, 2025
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Government Relations Director

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) offers the following **INFORMATIONAL** testimony on SB 168.

The bill would prohibit MDE and the Board of Public Works (BPW) from authorizing, under Title 16 of the Environment Article, certain projects for disposal of dredge material within a certain geographic distance of overburdened residential communities.

As currently drafted, SB 168 presents several operational challenges. First, the bill lacks clear thresholds for "contamination" leaving the criteria for Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) subject to interpretation. The proposed legislation does not list any constituents or levels that would be considered "contaminated" to ensure compliance with legal requirements, creating uncertainty.

Additionally, as dredged material placement is federally regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MDE would still need to process and transmit applications, creating administrative inefficiencies and complicating coordination between federal and state agencies.

Third, the bill is unclear on how it applies, if at all, to permit applications currently received by MDE.

Finally, because the bill imposes limitations on CAD projects, it may also have an impact on the ability of some local governments to efficiently manage dredged material from their navigational channels.

MDE understands and appreciates concerns raised by overburdened communities. As an alternative, MDE would be willing to work with the bill's sponsor to ensure an affected community fully participates in the permitting process and that any required mitigation efforts are focused to directly benefit that community.

MDE hopes this **INFORMATIONAL** testimony on SB 168 is helpful.

Contact: Jeremy D. Baker, Government Relations Director
Cell: 240-548-3321, Email: jeremy.baker@maryland.gov

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Uploaded by: Matt Mickler

Position: INFO

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Concern – Senate Bill 168 – Environmental Justice Confined Aquatic Disposal Act

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Port Administration (“MPA”) respectfully offers the following concerns for the Committee’s consideration on Senate Bill 168.

SB 168 would circumvent and undermine the current rigorous evaluation process for the dredged material management option known as Confined Aquatic Disposal (“CAD”) being performed under the statutory framework of the State of Maryland’s Dredged Material Management Program (“State DMMP”) by the Bay Enhancement Working Group’s CAD Subcommittee.

Any alteration to the process for review or approval for CAD prior to the completion of the CAD Subcommittee’s work is premature and erases the valuable input to date by regulatory, scientific, and technical experts, as well as interest groups and citizens representing surrounding communities who have dedicated significant time and resources to this initiative. MPA has currently invested approximately \$95,000 into this effort with plans to expend an additional \$187,000 to complete the ongoing effort. The bill would also bypass the State DMMP process that was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 2001 to 1) create a comprehensive process for evaluating and assessing dredged material management options and 2) identify potential new placement sites. *See* Md. Envir. Code, § 5-1104.2(d).

The CAD Subcommittee, formed under the State DMMP, is comprised of a cross section of interest groups, watermen, members of the scientific community, industry, government regulatory agencies, community groups, and citizens to study CAD. The CAD Subcommittee is currently reviewing and evaluating a wide range of topics related to CAD, including, its technical aspects, environmental impacts and benefits, socioeconomic benefits and effects, community impacts, and financial impacts to the state and is expected to complete its meetings in 2025, at which time a report will be prepared with recommendations to the State DMMP’s Executive Committee.

Confined Aquatic Disposal

CAD is a potential dredged material management option being evaluated by the State DMMP that identifies suitable underwater locations where sandy material can be recovered, dredged and innovatively or beneficially used by the State.

CAD involves three primary stages of activity. First, a depression (or cell) is excavated into the sand layer of the river bottom. Second, the excavated sand is used in a beneficial or innovative manner such as wetland creation or structural fill. Third, the depression is then filled in with dredged material.

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
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The Creation of the State DMMP's CAD Subcommittee

During the 2024 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 353 was introduced to create a legislative task force to study CAD and make recommendations to the DMMP Executive Committee and the Maryland General Assembly. While this legislation did not pass, the MPA committed to dedicating the necessary resources and funding to implement the study under the existing statutory structure and process of the DMMP. In 2024, the MPA voluntarily established the CAD Subcommittee under the State DMMP. The first meeting was held on September 12, with subsequent meetings on October 10, November 14, December 12, January 16, and upcoming on February 13. All meetings are open to the public.

Concurrently, focused outreach is underway to ensure stakeholders are engaged throughout the process. The MPA is expanding engagement efforts in 2025 to ensure it can reach more people, create opportunities for more dialogue, and incorporate all feedback into the planning process as it continues to consider and evaluate the viability of CAD as an innovative solution to dredged material management. Environmental justice is a top priority for the MPA and through the State DMMP, the MPA continues to pursue outcomes that equitably benefit all Marylanders. The MPA and DMMP prioritize environmental justice by working closely with affected communities and stakeholders to develop and implement strategies that promote fairness and equity. This effort includes the work of the CAD Subcommittee. Consistent updates to the community are also being provided through the DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee and existing stakeholder relationships.

In sum, the MPA firmly believes that review, discussion, feedback, advice, and recommendation on CAD should come from the CAD Subcommittee to the Executive Committee because these committees have the scientific, regulatory, and technical expertise, as well as the diverse stakeholder input needed to address the concerns of citizens regarding CAD. This process is also consistent with the State's DMMP Committee-based decision making created by the General Assembly in 2001 under passage of the Dredged Material Management Act that provides for the DMMP Committees and Workgroups to present advice, input, and recommendations to the Executive Committee and recommend to the Governor long-term strategic plans for dredged material management.

The MPA respectfully requests the Committee consider these concerns when deliberating Senate Bill 168.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Daniels
Executive Director
Maryland Port Administration
410-385-4401

Matt Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

2025_01_28 SB 168 Support in Concept.pdf

Uploaded by: Tiffany Clark

Position: INFO



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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

January 24, 2025

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Chief, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: Senate Bill 168 – Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act–
Support in Concept

The Office of Attorney General supports Senate Bill 168 – Environmental Justice in Confined Aquatic Disposal Act in concept. Senate Bill 168 aims to protect overburdened communities from the harms of confined aquatic disposal cells (“CAD”) by prohibiting the Maryland Department of the Environment (“MDE”) from processing or making a recommendation on certain applications seeking to alter tidal wetlands or State waters to construct a CAD within five miles of a residential overburdened community.

Senate Bill 168 also would prohibit the Board of Public Works (“BPW”) from approving certain applications seeking to alter tidal wetlands or State waters to construct a CAD within five miles of a residential overburdened community.

Senate Bill 168 aims to address longstanding environmental justice concerns in communities that bear the brunt of pollution in State waters, which is a priority of the OAG. The Maryland Port Authority (“MPA”) is overseeing a [piloted CAD](#) program in the Patapsco River to study CADs’ impacts and exploring a [second CAD project](#). Many of the ecological and health impacts of CADs remain unknown.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General supports the spirit of Senate Bill 168.

Cc: Committee Members