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HOUSE BILL 343 – SUPPORT

HOUSE BILL 343 – ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

COX CREEK CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE - MEMBERSHIP

March 4th, 2024

My name is Dawn Hegarty. I am a resident of the Riviera Beach waterfront community since 2000 in Northern Anne Arundel County and a certified Master Watershed Steward. In the past 16 years, my family & I have been actively involved in advocating for others and volunteering in our community. RCIA is responsible for our open space of community property known as the “Riviera Walk” bordering our waterfront shoreline of the Patapsco River, Stoney Creek & Rock Creek and home to our designated beach area, boat ramp, and marina, available to all our residents and visitors.

As a resident of Riviera Beach, we deserve better protection under any environmental regulation, concern, findings, and/or study for the well being of all. Particularly, given our area’s existing challenges with pollutants and associated health issues, including cancer, heart disease and asthma.

It is important that the Cox Creek Dredge Containment Management Facility (DMCF) Citizens Oversight Committee Contains representation from most impacted waterway communities and is updated to include citizen representation from Stoney Beach to Riviera Beach. I support House Bill 343 as aligned with Senate Bill 20 to be moved into legislation.

I extend my sincere appreciation to you and our district representatives for your continued efforts to safeguard our environment, our communities and our Patapsco River waterways. Together let us strive for a tomorrow where health equity prevails.

Sincerely,

Dawn Hegarty – Resident/Volunteer Riviera Beach Community.