

My name is George Merrick. My back bay charter company is called Fishing and Crabbing.com I write in opposition of the permits US Wind is seeking from DNREC as they relate to the Indian River Bay – the subaqueous and wetlands permits.

My back bay charter business thrives on the area that will be ruined by this proposed dredging project. We cater to a vast number of residents, as well as tourists every year. Clamming, crabbing and fishing enthusiasts hire our vessel to introduce their children, grandchildren and friends to the Indian River Bay and the Indian River estuaries. These are viable activities which take place daily on the exact locations of said proposed dredging and cable placement.

As we run our daily charters, we see 100's of recreational clammers, crabbers and fisherman enjoying the beautiful pristine bounty that our river and bay provide. To allow an offshore wind project that isn't even for Delaware to destroy these unspoiled areas would be catastrophic to my business as well as the recreational use of these lands.

These areas are unspoiled nurseries. On any given day you will see a wide, diverse ecosystem in full swing. Schools of juvenile fish species thriving. The spring run of spawning fish is amazing to witness. Many of these species have been making a huge comeback in recent years.

The river is a main contributor to the replenishment of the Eastern Atlantic biomass that has suffered in the past dramatically. To burden and destroy these areas is stress that is not needed.

My charter business consists of over 60% children. These children come from every walk and region of the United States and the World. They are not just here to go crabbing, clamming and or fishing. We teach them why it is so important to preserve these special places on earth. How the River is a living, breathing barometer as to the health of our earth. How stressing and destroying these fragile ecosystems is in turn destroying ourselves.

These children are taught how we are stewards of these lands, a commitment I make every day to these beautiful waters. They learn how, by preserving and respecting these places we will preserve the natural beauty and the resources that have been on Earth forever.

As we teach these values, we also send these customers home with the natural bounty from these waters along with recipes which create a plethora of

wholesome natural delicacies that they have never even thought of. Crab cakes, fish tacos, clam casinos, clam sashimi, deviled clams. The list goes on and on.

Everyone enjoys these waters. Groups in town for The World Series of Little League Baseball come from Holland, France, and every State in the Nation too. Summer vacationers and local Staycationers. These are just a few viable reasons why this absurd dredging proposal should not be allowed in these waters. No one should have the right to approve or implement such a devastating blow to our unique and pristine local environment.

I am not alone. Other watermen, businesses which rely on our natural wonders to thrive, and the citizen who loves the recreation will fight tooth and nail and with every legal and judicial implement available to see that this project never comes to fruition.