



PO Box 760 Edgewater, MD  
21037

410-224-3802  
[www.arundelrivers.org](http://www.arundelrivers.org)

---

## Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0932 - Maryland Agricultural BMP Best in Show Program

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
March 8, 2024

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT OF SB0932** on behalf of Arundel Rivers Federation. Arundel Rivers is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation, and restoration of the South, West and Rhode Rivers with over 3,500 supporters. Our mission is to work with local communities to achieve clean, fishable, and swimmable waterways for present and future generations.

Senate Bill 932 will enable the rapid deployment of a suite of water quality and habitat improvement practices across an agricultural operation. The bill recognizes that rapid and substantial improvements to our rural waterways requires a “whole-farm” approach rather than piecemeal implementation of one practice at a time across distant, unconnected operations. To date, such wholesale approaches have been difficult to implement as grant funding limits inherently limit the types and numbers of practices that can be implemented at once. This bill will allow non-profit organizations like Arundel Rivers the opportunity to explore and implement a menu of practices with our farmers that will transform water quality and habitat on their operations for decades to come.

Additionally, Arundel Rivers strongly supports the inclusion of land conservation in the menu of eligible practices for this new program. As organizations like ours help to deploy millions of trees and create new forests and wetlands across the state to meet our water quality and habitat creation goals, it is critical that we also protect pockets of habitat that already provide valuable ecosystem services.

For these reasons, Arundel Rivers Federation respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0932**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Johnston".

Matt Johnston  
Executive Director  
Arundel Rivers Federation