



SOUTHERN MARYLAND
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

February 28th, 2023

To the Environment & Transportation Committee,

I am writing today in strong opposition of HB 942: Authorizations for Stream Restoration Projects.

I am the Executive Director for Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D). RC&D is a non-profit that serves the southern Maryland counties of Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's. Our mission is "working in partnership with community groups and organizations, Southern Maryland RC&D is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the region by enabling the people and promoting the wise use of our natural and economic resources". I am currently involved in an ongoing study already being conducted by Maryland Department of the Environment that was enacted on October 1st, 2022 through HB869: Authorizations for Ecological Restoration Projects. The study is examining the processes and challenges for permitting all ecological restoration projects and is specifically addressing many of the concerns posed by HB 942.

I feel it is premature to enact a bill that seeks to address issues that have not been fully examined or defined by Wetlands and Waterways through this study. I urge you to allow the study to proceed without adding any additional requirements for MDE during that time. The results of the comprehensive study may lead to legislation, but it will be far more informed than the legislation proposed in HB 942.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Allison Burnett, Executive Director of Southern Maryland RC&D