



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee

FROM: Kenny Boddye, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee

DATE: February 14, 2025

POSITION: Favorable

We wish to testify in support of SB 0930, Managed Aquifer Recharge Pilot Program, on behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC).

COG is a nonprofit association with 300 members, including elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress. Each month, over 1,500 officials and experts participate through COG to address significant regional challenges and plan for the future. Established in 1998, the CBPC consists of local elected officials and representatives from COG's member governments and water and wastewater utilities in the metropolitan Washington region. The CBPC advises the COG Board of Directors on water resources policies, covering issues such as water and wastewater treatment, local water quality, stormwater management, and flooding.

COG and our member jurisdictions have a long history of partnership with local, state, and federal government in addressing important water resource issues. The proposed managed aquifer recharge pilot program in Anne Arundel County represents an innovative approach to water treatment that would further protect the region's environment, enhance the sustainability of Maryland's long-term groundwater supply and help address environmental pressures such as Chesapeake Bay restoration, sea level rise and saltwater intrusion. All of these outcomes align with COG's legislative priorities that were adopted by the COG Board of Directors in January 2025 ([2025 Legislative Priorities FINAL1.pdf](#)).

Specifically, this innovative program aims to test the use of treated reclaimed water from a demonstration facility as a source for groundwater augmentation, addressing anticipated groundwater supply or quality problems within the next 25 years. The program's focus on sustainability and innovative water management is commendable and aligns with COG's legislative priorities. By authorizing the Department of the Environment to review, permit, and regulate the process, SB 0930 ensures that the implementation of this pilot program will be thorough and well-monitored. The requirement for annual reporting to the Governor and the General Assembly further emphasizes the program's commitment to transparency and accountability.

The Managed Aquifer Recharge Pilot Program has the potential to significantly benefit Maryland's water resources, providing a sustainable solution to groundwater challenges while promoting environmental stewardship. COG supports this bill and the positive contributions it will make to the long-term health and sustainability of water resources in the metropolitan Washington region and the State of Maryland.

Thank you for considering COG's support for SB0930. We urge you to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Kenny Boddye, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee