

## **SB932; Pesticide and Pest Control - State-Owned Property - Pesticide Use Restrictions and Pollinator Habitat**

Dear Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

I am writing in favor of SB932, "Pesticide and Pest Control - State-Owned Property - Pesticide Use Restrictions and Pollinator Habitat". Its narrow focus seems to be a minimum approach.

I am writing as an individual representing myself only. I am active in removing non-native invasive plants as a Montgomery County Level II Weed Warrior. I am also actively gardening with native plants at home and am a member of our local chapter of Wild Ones.

The harmful effects of pesticides (including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) have been heavily studied and documented. These negative effects include serious health impacts and damage to wildlife (plants and animals) beyond those intended. Barring their use for aesthetic reasons is low-hanging fruit for addressing this problem. The exemptions should eliminate, or at least minimize opposition.

Adding pollinator gardens are desperately needed if we are to rebuild our severely depleted ecosystem. The massive amount of lawns and non-native plantings, the rapid spread of invasive plants, and the extremely small amount of native plants are the causes. Again the provision to add 20% pollinator space is low-hanging fruit to address this serious problem.

Please vote favorably and pass this important bill through committee.

Thank-you for considering my testimony.

Dorothy Broadman  
Montgomery County Level II Weed Warrior  
Member, Wild Ones Nation's Capital Chapter