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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB0930 - Environment - Managed Aquifer Recharge Pilot Program - Establishment**

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SB0930 would authorize the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to review, permit, and regulate a process to test the use of treated reclaimed water from a demonstration facility as a source for groundwater augmentation. This bill would provide a regulatory path for a County to establish a Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) demonstration facility on a small, localized scale in order to test a long-term strategy for groundwater resiliency and nutrient discharges to the Chesapeake Bay.

**Background**

Groundwater levels in Maryland and our region are slowly declining. The continued decline of the aquifer water levels increases the risk of land subsidence and saltwater intrusion. With over 533 miles of shoreline, these are significant concerns for Anne Arundel County.

In order to address these challenges, Anne Arundel County launched Our wAAter - a vital program that will provide long-term benefits by protecting our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay while also improving our groundwater supplies and water resiliency. One of the five core initiatives of the Our wAAter program an applied scientific research program for MAR. MAR is a technology to safely treat reclaimed wastewater to drinking water quality to replenish aquifers. This technology also removes PFAS, pharmaceuticals and personal care products prior to aquifer recharge.

MAR is an innovative, integrated, proven, long-term sustainable solution to meet water resource challenges impacting local water supplies and the Chesapeake Bay. Although MAR is new to Maryland, similar facilities have been tested and implemented in other states such as Nevada, New Mexico, California, Florida, and Virginia. Anne Arundel County has been operating a MAR testing facility informed by an independent scientific advisory panel for several years.

**Solution**

Should current testing continue to show success, Senate Bill 930 will provide the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) with the regulatory authority it needs to permit a

carefully monitored MAR pilot facility. This would allow the County to take the next step to investigate this approach through applied scientific research under the guidance of MDE.

I appreciate the technical expertise provided by MDE and the Department of Natural Resources on this legislation. I understand the departments will propose several conceptual amendments, and we are amenable to those changes being incorporated into SB0930.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0930.