

SB 932 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS  
Pesticide and Pest Control - State-Owned Property - Pesticide Use  
Restrictions and Pollinator Habitat  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 18, 2025

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

I support SB 932 with a request for amendments.

This bill would deliver incremental but significant environmental and public-health gains by tightening rules for pesticide application on certain public lands and by requiring the development and adaptation of model pesticide and pollinator habitat management plans.

The bill's modification of § 5-1103 of the Agriculture article should be amended: a) to require *timely* implementation of the required pesticide and pollinator habitat management plans – the sponsors and cognizant committees should determine dates by which adapted plans should be implemented for each state-owned property and b) to require plan-development and implementation reporting, for each individual tract of state-owned property, and c) the § 5-1102 allowance for meeting a local requirement and the § 5-1103 exception for actions respecting inconsistent with a local requirement should be removed.

As a member of the Takoma Park City Council, I wrote the city's Safe Grow Act of 2013, restricting cosmetic lawncare application of synthetic chemical pesticides, and with Safe Grow Montgomery, I helped win enactment of Montgomery County's similar 2014 Healthy Lawns Act. SB 932 is legislation developed in the spirit of those bills.

SB 932 would allow, on state-owned property, application of organic and "minimum risk" pesticides and of a "registered pesticide" applied against weeds, invasives, noxious species, and in agriculture. It requires development of "a model pesticide and pollinator habitat management plan to be implemented on state-owned and managed property," with a number of positive provisions.

SB 932 would deliver incremental but significant environmental and public-health gains and would be strengthened by the amendments I have suggested.

I ask that you amend SB 932 and vote a favorable committee reading of the amended version.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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