

**Testimony on: HB1342; Pesticide and Pest Control - State-Owned Property -
Pesticide Use Restrictions and Pollinator Habitat
Committee: Health and Government Operations
Hearing Date: March 5, 2025
Position: Support**

I support HB1342 because it limits the use of pesticides to only necessary applications, and provides for the creation of much needed native plant habitat, on state property.

Personal Information. Active involvement in repairing our badly damaged environment is important. As such, I volunteer in removing non-native invasive plants as a certified Montgomery County Level II Weed Warrior. I use native plants in landscaping at home and am a member of Wild Ones. The organization promotes native landscapes through education, advocacy and collaborative action.

Toxicity of Pesticides. The abundance of harmful effects of pesticides (including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) have been heavily studied and documented¹. These negative effects include serious health impacts to humans and damage to wildlife (plants and animals) beyond those intended. Barring their use for aesthetic reasons is a narrow restriction, easily managed.

Native Plants. Expanding pollinator gardens is desperately needed if we are to rebuild our severely depleted ecosystem. The massive amount of lawns, use of pesticides and non-native plantings, and the rapid spread of invasive plants, are the causes of our profoundly sick environment. The provision to add pollinator space will not only create much needed wildlife habitat, it will also provide much needed public education about this crucial issue.

Please vote favorably and pass this important bill through committee.

Dorothy Broadman
Montgomery County Level II Weed Warrior
Member, Wild Ones

¹ UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), [Comprehensive global study shows pesticides are major contributor to biodiversity crisis](#), February 13, 2025.

Multiple authors, [Study of Harmful Effects of Pesticides on Human Body and Environment](#), International Journal of Pharmaceutical Science, Volume 02 | Issue 11, November 26, 2024.