



Testimony in Support of HB 1196- Environment - Mobile Home Parks - Water Quality Testing

Environment and Transportation Committee
March 4, 2026

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB1196** on behalf of Arundel Rivers Federation. Deeply rooted in the South, West, and Rhode Rivers, Arundel Rivers Federation heals and protects our waterways and champions clean water across Maryland. Our vision is healthy waterways for all, and we achieve our mission through restoration, education and outreach, and Riverkeeper programs.

This bill will require the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to establish a statewide mobile home park water quality testing program and ensure that testing results are publicly reported, with appropriate remediation required when problems are found. This measure is an important step toward equitable water quality protection and aligns with scientific best practices for identifying and addressing pollution sources in underserved communities.

Mobile home parks represent a significant and often overlooked segment of Maryland's housing landscape. Residents in these communities may rely on private wells, shared systems, or older infrastructure that is not routinely monitored under existing state programs. The absence of systematic water quality testing has left many residents vulnerable to exposure to contaminants such as bacteria, nitrates, heavy metals, and other pollutants that compromise human health and watershed quality. By mandating a structured testing program — with statutory milestones for the percentage of parks tested and results publicly communicated — HB 1196 ensures that water quality issues are identified early and transparently, rather than waiting until problems escalate.

There are multiple mobile home parks in Anne Arundel County that are currently within Significant Non-Compliance – frequently violating their National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. According to the Environmental Protection Agency Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database and our own tracking systems, **5 mobile home parks in Anne Arundel County have had over 500 effluent violations within the past three years – accounting for more than 60% of all the NPDES effluent violations in the entire county during this time.** These consistent violations threaten downstream water quality, local habitats, and the public health of residents of these parks. Although this bill focuses on testing drinking water for these communities, **Arundel Rivers supports any monitoring program for these communities that prioritizes improving and protecting the health of the residents and we are hopeful future actions, either through legislation or through enforcement or regulatory action, will also address surface water quality.**

Arundel Rivers Federation strongly supports making our communities more resilient in the face of our changing climate and increased nuisance and storm flooding. For these reasons, we request a **favorable report** on HB1196.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elle Bassett".

Elle Bassett
South, West, and Rhode Riverkeeper
Arundel Rivers Federation