

March 3, 2023

Hon. Kumar Barve
Chair, House Environment & Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **HB 942** Wetlands and Waterways Program - Authorizations for Stream Restoration Projects
Position: **OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Barve:

Members of the American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD) are actively engaged in various aspects of planning and engineering related to stormwater management and wetlands protection. Our concern and reason for opposing HB 942 is the bill's duplication of existing Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) efforts to protect and improve Maryland's wetlands and waterways.

Here are several examples duplicates exiting efforts:

- Section 5-203.2 (A) duplicates the requirements in HB 869 from 2022, which also requires a review of restoration projects. This report is due in 2024; and
- Section 5-203.2 (B) (1) ignores the existing professional studies and reports from experts in every scientific field, as well as the extensive modeling and data collection that have provided the best possible scientific information for the needs of the Department.

Maryland's current laws and regulations provide more than sufficient guidance and protection relative the stream restoration, such that enacting HB 492 will serve no additional benefit and may create problems for the Department.

Accordingly, ACEC/MD members respectfully requests that the House Environment and Transportation Committee recommended an unfavorable vote for HB 942.



Chad Faison

Copy: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee