



**Committee: Budget & Tax**

**Testimony on: SB814 - Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund-Alterations**

**Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing**

**Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 1, 2022**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB814. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably for this bill.

This bill authorizes the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to make loans to the Department of Housing and Community Development so that it may issue low- and no-interest loans to local governments for the purpose of offering loan funds to private property owners for hazard mitigation projects. Local governments providing loans to private property owners must establish a specified graduated loan forgiveness program designed to assist our low and moderate income families.

As yesterday's release by the United Nation's International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made clear, because the world has failed to act meaningfully to address climate change, climate related impacts are hitting the world much harder and more frequently than had been previously predicted. The IPCC stated in its report yesterday that "any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a livable future."

Given that even a liberal state like Maryland has difficulties in taking action, it makes resiliency efforts all the more important to help Marylanders combat the effects of rising sea level, increasingly severe storms, and flooding.

For these reasons, we support SB814.