



Prince George's County Municipal Association
An Association of 27 Municipalities



HOUSE BILL 892 – SUPPORT
Environment & Transportation Committee
March 9, 2023

The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) writes to **SUPPORT House Bill 892 - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program – Environmental Justice Funding** which aims to allocate funding provided under the comprehensive flood management grant program to areas that are identified as environmental justice communities. The bill proposes to require at least 40% of the funding to be used for projects located in or directly benefiting census tracts with an EJ Score of .76 or greater. The bill also proposes that the Governor include an appropriation of \$20,000,000 for the comprehensive flood management grant program in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

The EJ Score is a metric developed by the Maryland Department of the Environment to assess environmental justice issues at the census tract level. The score takes into account a range of factors, including air quality, water quality, and socioeconomic indicators. By requiring a portion of the funds to be used for projects with an EJ Score of .76 or greater the bill aims to help address environmental justice concerns by prioritizing funding for flood management projects in communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards. PGCMA believes this could lead to increased protection for vulnerable communities and could promote more equitable distribution of resources.

PGCMA stands with the counties of Maryland who wholeheartedly support this effort to protect Maryland's most vulnerable communities from the dangers of extreme weather events, and we welcome additional resources to undertake flood management and mitigation efforts. We know that without increased state-level investment in flood mitigation or prevention, many of the costs associated with these projects will be undertaken by local governments. This would potentially overburden the scale suitable for their local remediation ability.

This critical program provides local governments with the additional resources needed to prevent flooding and mitigate against some of the worst impacts of climate change. Therefore, PGCMA respectfully requests a **favorable** report for **House Bill 892**. Thank you.

Melinda Mendoza, President
The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA)

For more information call or email:

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