



Senate Bill 148

Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Underserved and Overburdened Communities

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
and Budget and Taxation Committees

Date: February 6, 2024

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 148. This bill would provide additional resources for counties undertaking flood management and mitigation efforts, and expand resources targeted to areas with environmental justice concerns.

Counties bear a central role in managing the flood prevention and stormwater infrastructure. This responsibility strikes at the very purpose of government: to provide for the betterment of public health and safety. Local governments operate nearly all the stormwater and flood prevention infrastructure within Maryland, a responsibility local leaders accept with care.

SB 148 expands the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program by increasing funding to \$20 million, and requires that at least forty percent of those funds go toward certain communities with high environmental justice concerns. This critical program provides local governments with additional resources to prevent flooding and mitigate against some of the worst impacts of climate change. Without increased state-level investment in flood mitigation or prevention, many of the costs associated with these projects will be borne by local governments, potentially overburdening the scale suitable for local remediation ability.

SB 148 directs investment toward flood mitigation and prevention work that serves all Marylanders. Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 148.