



House Bill 1209

*Environment – Flood Control – Flood Risk Assessment and Model Ordinance
(Climate Ready Floodplain Act of 2023)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

WITH AMENDMENTS

Date: March 8, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 1209 WITH AMENDMENTS**. Amendments agreed to by MACo, MML, the sponsor, and the advocates place Maryland on a better path to address climate change-induced flooding. Amendments to HB 1209 serve to:

- 1) give Maryland the flexibility to revise and adopt more tailored flood plain maps; and
- 2) set out a more regular process for stakeholders and the Maryland Department of the Environment to review and publish statewide model floodplain ordinances.

One of the highest priorities for counties and the state is to prevent the needless destruction of life and property. As climate change worsens and sea level rise becomes more prevalent, it is important for policy makers to have reliable data and be ready to take nimble action. The amendments referenced above support both of these efforts while also recognizing local autonomy and counties' ability to better tailor policy to their unique jurisdictions.

Amendments to HB 1209 offer Maryland more flexibility, better data, and the ability to have a stakeholder-driven process around flood plain policy. Maryland must work to have the necessary tools in place so policy makers can more readily adjust to a changing environment. Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 1209.