

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: MBIA Letter of Support with Amendments HB 1209 Environment – Flood Control – Flood Risk Assessment and Model Ordinance (Climate Ready Floodplain Act of 2023)

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 1209 Environment – Flood Control – Flood Risk Assessment and Model Ordinance (Climate Ready Floodplain Act of 2023)**. MBIA Supports the Act with amendments.

This bill requires the publication of a statewide flood risk assessment and creates new prohibitions for a floodplain ordinance. MBIA supports this measure with amendments. In order to adjust to changing environmental conditions this bill needs more flexibility to adjust to new research and circumstance. MBIA supports the following amendments that have been proposed.

- 1) Changing the language to require MDE to adopt a model floodplain ordinance by July 1, 2025 and an additional model ordinance every five years after this date. This establishes a non-prescriptive process and allows recurring updates.
- 2) Removing the requirement to create entirely new maps, MDE may not have the resources or information to do this immediately. The amended bill provides MDE the flexibility we think they need to accomplish a more robust use of environmental data.
- 3) The creation of a stakeholder workgroup allowing MDE to take into account stakeholder input as they consider new floodplain ordinances.
- 4) Creating language requiring MDE and the stakeholder workgroup to consider incorporating the provisions that are in the existing bill which allows the flexibility to adopt the proposed changes or not based on expert evaluation of the proposals.

In addition, MBIA proposes the addition of a Private Sector entity with engineering and construction experience. This will add experience and expertise to the stakeholder work group.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee adopt the proposed amendment and give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee

MBIA HB 1209 Proposed Amendments

(3) CONSULT WITH FLOOD MANAGEMENT EXPERTS FROM THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT MAPS AND MODEL FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE:

(VII) A PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITY WITH ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE.