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☎ 877-636-2872

📍 7229 Parkway Drive, Suite 200 | Hanover, MD 21076

Governor | Wes Moore Lt. Governor | Aruna Miller Secretary | Russell J. Strickland

FAVORABLE - SB 266

Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy- Planning Principles

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Hearing Date: 21 Jan 2025

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes in support of **SB 266 – Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy- Planning Principles**. The bill seeks to remove the existing Planning Visions and replace them with the newly formed Planning Principles.

The Department of Emergency Management and the Office of Resilience urge support for this legislation that includes resilience as a core planning principle in all local comprehensive plans. In an era of increasing hazard impacts, such as more frequent and intense heat waves, severe storms, and rising sea levels, the need for resilient communities has become paramount. Climate change and other hazards pose significant threats to our infrastructure, economy, and public health, and those impacts are already felt across our state. By explicitly incorporating resilience into their planning documents, local governments can proactively address these challenges.

Failing to address these challenges through proactive planning will leave our communities increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of various hazards. We can help our communities prepare to thrive in the face of these challenges by including resilience as a planning principle in local comprehensive plans.

In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report of **SB 266 - Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy- Planning Principles**. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.