



Catonsville Indivisible Group

Support for Senate Bill 225 (SB 225) Environment – Interjurisdictional Watersheds – Flood Management

My name is Susan Radke and am a co-leader with Catonsville Indivisible Group, a grassroots group of constituents living in Catonsville, Southwest Baltimore County, Maryland who are dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values.

The **Catonsville Indivisible Group** and I strongly support SB 225 which also designates the Patapsco River as an interjurisdictional flood hazard watershed. The legislation is vital to protect our communities in Oella and Catonsville as the Patapsco River runs through these areas in Baltimore County with tributaries from Howard County feeding the Patapsco River below Ellicott City to Oella, Maryland.

Currently, there is development occurring along the Patapsco River at the old Ellicott Mill in Oella where the flour mill is being redeveloped into a multi-use 190 luxury apartments, retail and destination restaurants in a flood plain. Baltimore County approved four additional floors to this building, and to this date, there appears to be no final flood management plan for this structure. Ellicott City and Oella has a long history of flooding because of the Howard County watersheds as well as flooding from the Patapsco River. This will impact the new development being built in Oella, MD. Howard County is remediating flash flooding events in Ellicott City by diverting stormwater directly into the Patapsco River right above the luxury apartment development where the land is not high enough to prevent flooding. Therefore, Senate Bill 225 will ensure that these watersheds are responsibly managed and that all flood management plans are subject to review and approval.

The Catonsville Indivisible Group and I urge the Senate to vote yes and pass this legislation with no amendments.

Susan Radke, co-leader, on behalf of the Catonsville Indivisible Group.