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BILL NO.: **HB 78**

TITLE: Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses

SPONSOR: Delegate C. Watson

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 29, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 78 – Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses. This bill alters the criteria for determining the use of funds in the Bay Restoration Fund to include climate resiliency and flood control and specifies that certain grants to certain local governments may be used for stormwater management measures that include volume or quality control.

Baltimore County supports policy changes that will help address the pressing concerns of climate resiliency and flood control. Passage of HB 78 would create more flexibility in usage of the Bay Restoration Fund and provide local jurisdictions with much needed relief as they seek to address the growing impacts of climate change.

The State’s assistance in addressing the stormwater management needs of local jurisdictions helps to expedite the stormwater restoration process and lessens the fiscal burden on local tax and rate payers. HB 78 represents a chance for the assistance to adapt to the changing needs of our changing world.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 78. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.