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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HOUSE BILL 1080**

**COAST SMART SITING AND DESIGN CRITERIA – PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS**

**February 28, 2020**

MR. CHAIR, MR. VICE CHAIR, MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT HB 1080 EXTENDING SITING AND DESIGN CRITERIA FOR STATE BUILDINGS AND THOSE CONSTRUCTED WITH STATE FUNDS TO PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT. THE BILL **WOULD NOT APPLY** TO DEVELOPMENT THAT DISTURBS MORE THAN AN ACRE OF LAND AND COSTS MORE THAN \$100,000.

**THE PROBLEM:** MARYLAND IS ONE OF THREE STATES MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO SEA LEVEL RISE BEHIND FLORIDA AND LOUISIANA. GLOBAL WARMING IS CAUSING SEA LEVEL RISE AND IN MARYLAND IT IS COMPOUNDED BY ALREADY LOW LYING LAND THAT IS SINKING. BY 2050, SEA LEVEL RISE IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE BY 1.6 FEET. AN ESTIMATED 23,000 PROPERTIES IN MARYLAND ARE AT RISK OF TIDAL FLOODING TODAY AND AS LAND DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES GROW THAT NUMBER WILL INCREASE UNLESS WE ADOPT COMMON SENSE DESIGN AND SITING CRITERIA FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT ALONG SHORELINES.

**WHAT THE BILL DOES:** THE BILL EXTENDS A 2014 LAW THAT ESTABLISHED THE COAST SMART COUNCIL, WHICH LATER ISSUED DESIGN AND SITING CRITERIA FOR SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH THE STATE OF MARYLAND HAS A \$500,000 OR GREATER INVESTMENT. THESE CRITERIA WOULD NOW APPLY TO PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT IN SHORELINE AREAS. IT EXEMPTS SMALL PROJECTS SUCH AS ADDITIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS. THE CRITERIA WOULD BE ADDRESSED AS PART OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS THAT WOULD STILL GO THROUGH THE NORMAL COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL REVIEW. FOR THIS REASON, THE MD ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES TOOK NO POSITION ON THE BILL.

COASTAL FLOODING IS A MAJOR THREAT TO HUMAN LIFE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROPERTY AND IT IS GROWING WITH THE INCREASING SEVERITY OF STORMS AS WELL AS A NEWER PHENOMENON, SO CALLED SUNNY DAY FLOODING, THAT IS BEING EXPERIENCED IN MANY AREAS INCLUDING ANNAPOLIS.

WE CAN NO LONGER LIMIT LAWS ADDRESSING SEA LEVEL RISE TO GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROJECTS. THE VAST MAJORITY OF DEVELOPMENT IS PRIVATE. THIS PROBLEM IS URGENT AND MERITS THE KIND OF ACTION THIS BILL REQUIRES FOR SITING AND DESIGN OF DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS VULNERABLE TO SEA LEVEL RISE AND COASTAL FLOODING.

THANK YOU AND I URGE A FAVORABLE REPORT ON HB 1080.

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