

## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 227 (Senator Elfreth)

### Water Pollution – Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Implementation Plans – Review and Update

January 21, 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 227. If enacted, SB 227 will be vital to protect my community, and new development, from the impacts of extreme weather and flood events.

In 2015 we purchased our house in Ocean Pines, on Maryland's Eastern Shore in Worcester County. I love my house and where we live. However, the flooding issues are a cause of great distress. When searching for a home there was never a heads up from our realtor to be particular about purchasing a home situated on a low lot. Alas, our house was built on a low lot and over the years people around us have altered their lots causing more run off onto our property. We have spent thousands of dollars trying to divert water away from the house but because the drainage system in Ocean Pines is inadequate there is nowhere for the water to go.

I am attaching several pictures for your reference. One picture is the front of our house on a dry day. Other pictures were taken on November 13, 2020 when we had moderate (but still damaging) flooding and also during a prolonged Nor'Easter in December 2020.

With increased severity of rain events here in my coastal community, and throughout Maryland, homeowners need protection from new development that does not account for the increased amounts of rainfall. Better stormwater construction standards, which have not been updated in 30 years, would prevent new homeowners from having to live with the damaging flooding caused under the current standards.

Waterkeepers Chesapeake, and our own local Assateague Coastkeeper say this will lead to savings for our state. They state in their written testimony that "according to the National Institute of Building Sciences' (NIBS) [2018 update on the value of mitigation](#), "every \$1 in mitigation efforts save \$6 in future disaster costs[.]" If we do nothing to address flooding and increased rainfall, the cost to our state and local governments increase. "

Eastern Shore homeowners, like myself, are on the frontlines of increased severe storms and sea level rise impacting our low-lying coastal communities. Please help prevent my situation for future homeowners. I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 227.

Respectfully,

Donna Richards  
Ocean Pines, Maryland

