



January 27, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chairman
House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: House Bill 295 – Water Pollution – Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Implementation Plans – Review and Update

Position: *Support*

Chairman Barve & Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Underwood & Associates, Inc. to express our *support* for House Bill 295 – Water Pollution – Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Implementation Plans – Review and Update. This bill provides critical updates to regulations that address cleaning the Chesapeake Bay and fighting off the detrimental effects of climate change.

This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to review and update regulations at least every five years and to do so using the most recent precipitation data available to revise water quality control standards. This is critical as Maryland and local regulatory agencies rely on outdated precipitation estimates and storm design standards in developing water pollution control permits. These outdated precipitation and storm design standards result in insufficient stormwater controls that fail to protect households and communities from precipitation-based flooding.

Simply put, we build our projects to withstand the hundred-year storm because the existing two-year and ten-year standards do not combat the ongoing issues of global climate change. This industry specific expertise on stormwater design standards and climate science will prove invaluable as the Department formulates practical regulations.

As an industry leader with 30+ years of experience, I respectfully request a *favorable* report of House Bill 295, which shows your dedicated support of climate change resiliency and a healthier Chesapeake Bay. Thank you for your kind consideration and attention to this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Underwood, President
Underwood & Associates, Inc.