

Good Day Delegate Kumar Barve, Council members Friedson, Albornoz, Glass, Jawando and Riemer.

My name is Toby Emerson, and i live in Kensington MD. I am writing this to implore you to pass HB635.

My property floods, and it floods constantly. It floods so often that I actually made a YouTube channel page to document all of the floods as they continue to happen more and more regularly. It has brought me many times to the impasse of weather or not I should actually move. My neighborhood was mostly developed in the 50's. With the help of MCDOT i can place the storm water system to the 60's (it was turned over to MCDOT in the early 70's) possibly earlier construction, but that's what I know for sure.

With the growth of the area, the flooding has increased and increased. I have a drain basin in my back yard, and what was placed to be a safety net for potential 5 year storms, is now being used during an even moderate storm to displace all the storm water flooding to it. Even more concerning is that now, it is actually flowing up out of the drain basin and creating a river that flows towards my neighbors properties. I have been told by MCDOT that the pipes that run under this basin encompasses approx 24 acres of land drainage infrastructure. Up until very recently, they were not even aware in their documentation that this basin was there.

They keep building, and building on the grade above me, and i keep flooding, and flooding more. Now my neighbors are starting to flood. I have been very active with trying to bring attention to this matter by speaking out against construction without proper mitigating of the storm water, mostly with no avail, as properties turn from grassy homes, re-zoned to almost completely covered with buildings, that runoff becomes more and more of a problem for us.

There desperately needs to be a plan in place of which our county can utilize to help with the needed growth and how this will impact the existing system, as well as existing resident homes. If things like huge drain basins are not even known to be factored into permitting phase to minimize flooding, what else is not?

I appreciate your time, and ask that this be put through as quickly as possible, as flooding is not just a potential in my neighborhood, but rather a very common issue that only continues to get worse and worse. If there is any question as too the graveness of what i am speaking too, i encourage you to just watch a few of my videos on my YouTube channel

at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0Amzy3DNZw2KIxH2TMII4Q>