

SB0814_Resilient_MD_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0814

PUBLIC SAFETY - RESILIENT MARYLAND REVOLVING LOAN FUND - ALTERATIONS

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hester

Committee: Budget and Tax

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0814 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Our members agree with the central concept of this bill that local governments and non-profit organizations need a backup funding channel in order to be able to support local resilience projects. The monies in the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund would not take the place of monies that would normally be appropriated for resilience projects. Instead, it would supplement them and ensure that in times of need, that those projects could go forward.

We also like the fact that this bill would allow the fund to receive funds from FEMA.

We believe this is a good failsafe that would ensure that local governments can effectively mitigate hazards. The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

SB814 - Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund – A

Uploaded by: Dakota Matthews

Position: FAV



John Hartline, Chair

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Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 814 - Public Safety – Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund – Alterations
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 01, 2022

The Rural Maryland Council supports Senate Bill 814 - Public Safety – Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund – Alterations. The bill will allow the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund to make loans to the Department of Housing and Community Development which will then distribute the loans to local governments and private property owners for hazard mitigation projects. The loans to local governments will assist in providing matches for federal resilience grant programs, and to be distributed to private landowners for hazard mitigation projects of buildings.

The loans in HB814 will help prepare rural residents for disastrous events by providing loans to private property owners for wind retrofits, flood mitigation elevation, floodproofing, fire retrofit mitigation, and earthquake retrofit mitigation. Rural areas are often less prepared for hazardous events and are less likely to properly recover from these events. They also tend to have worse infrastructure than the rest of the State, making them less capable of withstanding events such as floods, fires, earthquakes, and other disasters, which these loans will help address through the loans to private property owners.

Maryland needs to be prepared for the serious events that are already taking place because of a warming climate and raising waters. As the conditions continue to worsen, those who live near bodies of water, especially on the eastern shore, will face loss of land, including homes and businesses. Floods and more violent storms are also becoming more common. Programs like the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund will assist in building communities that are better prepared for these disasters now, to avoid the potential damages of the future.

For some, the word resiliency has meant the ability to withstand environmental shocks. For others, it means the ability to withstand financial shocks. But the pandemic has made it clear that a resilient community is one that can withstand whatever is thrown at it. A holistic approach is needed, one that includes development and identifies new opportunities. As a result, we will ensure that all Marylanders are prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies, and healthy connected communities.

The Rural Maryland Council respectfully requests your favorable support of Senate Bill 814.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency governed by a nonpartisan, 40-member board that consists of inclusive representation from the federal, state, regional, county and municipal governments, as well as the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. We bring together federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions.

SB0814-Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan- B&T - CJ

Uploaded by: Diana Younts

Position: FAV



Committee: Budget & Tax

Testimony on: SB814 - Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund-Alterations

Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 1, 2022

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB814. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably for this bill.

This bill authorizes the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to make loans to the Department of Housing and Community Development so that it may issue low- and no-interest loans to local governments for the purpose of offering loan funds to private property owners for hazard mitigation projects. Local governments providing loans to private property owners must establish a specified graduated loan forgiveness program designed to assist our low and moderate income families.

As yesterday's release by the United Nation's International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made clear, because the world has failed to act meaningfully to address climate change, climate related impacts are hitting the world much harder and more frequently than had been previously predicted. The IPCC stated in its report yesterday that "any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a livable future."

Given that even a liberal state like Maryland has difficulties in taking action, it makes resiliency efforts all the more important to help Marylanders combat the effects of rising sea level, increasingly severe storms, and flooding.

For these reasons, we support SB814.

SB 814_CBF SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Joshua Kurtz

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 814

Public Safety – Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund – Alterations

Date: March 1, 2022

Position: **Support**

To: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

From: Josh Kurtz, Maryland Executive Director

Chesapeake Bay Foundation **SUPPORTS** SB 814 to allow Maryland Department of Emergency Management to provide loan funds to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to provide low or no interest loans through counties to property owners to improve their resilience. The bill also allows for the loan fund to accept federal funds.

Confronting climate change and improving resiliency supports the Chesapeake Bay's recovery

Climate change and sea level rise pose resiliency challenges to Maryland. Rising sea levels threaten to inundate miles of Chesapeake shoreline. In the fight to restore the Chesapeake Bay, warmer waters exacerbate the Bay's dead zones, stressing fish and other forms of marine life critical to the Bay's restoration.¹ This bill will provide funding to property owners to help combat climate change on their property through federal programs like [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC). These programs provide funds for natural infrastructure that protects properties while also improving water quality.

Building resiliency to sea-level rise will help protect vulnerable populations along the Bay's coast

In low-lying areas throughout Maryland, storm surges combined with higher sea levels and increasingly erratic storm activity may create a "perfect storm" that will flood thousands of acres. Many of those areas are inhabited by low-income Marylanders who may be less self-sufficient during an evacuation and have fewer options for alternate housing. Access to emergency facilities such as shelters and other short-term relief in flooding scenarios may also be limited, creating a dangerous and potentially devastating effect on sea-level rise for the poor.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 814. For more information, contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org or 443.995.8753.

¹ How Climate Change Impacts the Chesapeake Bay, [Climate Change](#), Chesapeake Bay Foundation, last visited 2.12.2021.

Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund Changes Tes

Uploaded by: Katie Fry Hester

Position: FAV

KATIE FRY HESTER
Legislative District 9
Carroll and Howard Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on
Cybersecurity, Information Technology
and Biotechnology



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB814 - Public Safety - Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund - Alterations

03/01/2022

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, thank you for your consideration of SB814. Last year, Maryland became a national leader by establishing the Resilient Revolving Loan Fund.

One of the questions I get asked most often is “When can I apply for a loan?” The short answer is that we were ahead of our time, and have been waiting for the federal government to promulgate regulations. Therefore, this year, I am here with a few small changes, aligned with federal developments, to ensure that it is set up and operational as quickly as possible.

Senate Bill 814 makes the following small changes to the already established Resilient Revolving Loan Fund:

- 1) Following the passage of the national STORM act, the financial industry has expressed interest in loaning hundreds of billions of dollars to increase available funds for retro-fitting buildings against natural hazards. SB814 will allow Maryland to leverage these private dollars by establishing a new restricted fund within the original loan program, specifically for private capital directed towards the retro-fitting of buildings.
- 2) Secondly, while the Revolving Loan Fund provides low- to no-interest loans, payments may still be out of reach for many of our low-income families in Maryland. Therefore, SB814 adds a provision to allow for loan forgiveness under certain circumstances.

- 3) Finally the bill makes administration of the fund an eligible cost so that MDEM can hire its administrative staff. Under the wisdom and foresight of this committee, a position was originally added to the Department of Emergency Management in order to manage the fund; however, since administration of the fund was not included as an eligible usage of the fund, they were unable to hire for the position.

With these changes, Maryland can double down on its investment, use state funds to leverage private funds, and bring the nation's first resilient loan fund into better alignment with the federal regulations. **With this bill we can make the first resilient loan fund in the United States even better. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 814.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Katie Fry Hester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" being the most prominent.

Senator Katie Fry Hester
Carroll and Howard Counties

SB814_IndivisibleHoCoMD_FAV_ElizabethFixsen.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard Deutschmann

Position: FAV



SB814 - Public Safety - Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund - Alterations
Testimony before Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 1, 2022
Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Elizabeth Fixsen, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB814**, altering the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund (RMRLF) to provide for loans to be made to the Department of Housing and Community Development and local governments; authorizing the Fund to include money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency; requiring a portion of the Fund to be reserved for the hazard mitigation of buildings; and authorizing loan forgiveness under certain circumstances. We appreciate Senator Hestor's sponsorship of this bill.

The Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund (RMRLF) is modeled after the federal STORM Act and among other things, provides funds to make buildings more resilient to natural disasters, such as floods – which will become more common as climate change worsens. The amendments to RMRLF will provide additional state and local government channels for receiving and distributing funds. It will enable the Fund to access money from FEMA, and it will enable some low-income property owners to be relieved of the burden of full loan repayment.

These changes to the RMRLF will better ensure protection of our property values in the face of mounting climate risks. Preserving property values is essential to maintaining adequate levels of funding for schools and local government services.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Elizabeth Fixsen
Savage, MD 20763

SB0814-BT_MACo_SWA.pdf

Uploaded by: D'Paul Nibber

Position: FWA



Senate Bill 814

Public Safety - Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund - Alterations

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: March 1, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 814 WITH AMENDMENTS**. The bill, in part, revises Maryland's Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund to have county governments provide loans to private property owners for hazard mitigation projects. **MACo seeks amendments to clarify that county participation is at its local option, and will not trigger unforeseen local project liability.**

Hazard mitigation project loans assist homeowners in protecting their homes from recurring environmental issues including flooding, earthquakes, and other naturally occurring phenomenon. To receive hazard mitigation loans, owners often provide completed applications and documentation to county emergency management offices, who then submit these materials to the Maryland Department of Emergency Management. The Department reviews all loan application materials and submits them to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a funding decision.

SB 814 allows county emergency management offices to submit applications directly to FEMA and be the primary administrator of a hazard mitigation loan. However, the bill is unclear as to whether a county may decide whether to take on this role. Moreover, upon assuming the role of loan administrator, counties are responsible for forgiving loan amounts under certain circumstances — potentially resulting in substantial losses.

To address these concerns, MACo offers the following amendments:

- On page 2, line 8, after “GOVERNMENTS” insert “UPON A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY’S REQUEST”
- On page 2, line 17, after “GOVERNMENTS” insert “UPON A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY’S REQUEST”
- On page 4, after line 29 insert “(3) ANY FORGIVEN PORTION OF A LOAN UNDER A LOCAL GOVERNMENT’S GRADUATED LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM SHALL BE REIMBURSED TO THE ADMINISTERING LOCAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE RESILIENT MARYLAND REVOLVING LOAN FUND OR, IF FUNDS ARE INSUFFICIENT, BY THE STATE.”

The above amendments clarify that counties may opt-in to administering loan programs and, in doing so, will not absorb potentially excessive loan forgiveness costs. With this increased flexibility and support, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for SB 814.