



February 24, 2022

Senate Bill 630

**Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Resilience
Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs**

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County strongly **supports SB 630**.

Anne Arundel County, like many localities around the state, is experiencing more frequent and severe impacts from climate change. During a single week in July of 2018, Baltimore Washington International Airport recorded three rainfall events that exceeded the state’s stormwater standards, overwhelming stormwater infrastructure and flooding neighborhoods. This past October, the county’s 530 miles of coastline along the Chesapeake Bay were inundated by a high-tide flood event that raised water levels in the Bay between 3 and 5 feet above normal, closing roadways, damaging shoreline structures and homes and leaving some neighborhoods stranded. And in September of last year, businesses, schools and homes in the county and City of Annapolis were struck by a powerful tornado. None of this was considered normal, and yet these stories keep coming from all corners of the state.

We can build communities that are resilient to these changes if we first build strong institutions that can coordinate and finance our resiliency efforts. In Anne Arundel County, we’ve chosen to create a Resilience Authority to coordinate and finance our local resiliency efforts. With this bill, our Resilience Authority will now have a well-organized and funded state partner in this work.

A Chief Resilience Officer within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management will be able to coordinate resilience efforts across state and local agencies, leverage and focus funding and technical resources on resilience solutions, and develop concrete goals to guide a statewide resilience strategy.

For these reasons, Anne Arundel County urges a **FAVORABLE** vote on SB 630.