



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

18 February 2022

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB 706 – Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience

Position: Favorable

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

As you consider the merits of **HB 706**, I ask that you **support** this vital legislation and vote to give **HB 706** a **Favorable** Committee report.

The City of Salisbury supports HB 706, which will establish the Office of Resilience within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management. This bill is important as it calls for the appointment of a Chief Resilience Officer who will coordinate efforts with state agencies and stakeholders to build resilience to risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Office of Resilience established through HB 706 will:

- Coordinate and administer federal prevention, protection, and mitigation programs
- Help to facilitate state support following emergencies
- Develop flood risk assessment tools

As the Capital of the Eastern Shore, residents of our city have first-hand experience in contending with the effects of climate change. Whether faced with soil erosion in our tidal areas or the heavy flooding that has become synonymous with major storms, although we remain versatile, we must take meaningful action as we respond to environmental hazards, including that of nuisance flooding that negatively impacts Marylanders across the Eastern Shore. By establishing an Office of Resilience, cities like Salisbury will benefit from improved interagency coordination as we work to combat the effects of chronic flooding while bolstering our preparedness for emergency situations.

This legislation, if enacted, would foster a culture of environmental responsibility as we embrace a statewide approach to promoting resilience within emergency preparedness efforts. By proactively preparing for and helping to reduce the potential impact of hazards identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan, this bill will allow us to take meaningful action as we seek to eliminate flooding in residential areas and turn the tides of climate change while protecting our environment.

I ask for your **support** of this critical climate resilience legislation.

Respectfully,

Jacob R. Day
Mayor