

March 4, 2022

I am Roderick Scott, the board chair of the private sector non-profit, Flood Mitigation Industry Association. We are the companies and professionals that create, manufacture and distribute flood control products and provide professional assessment and project design services to help keep buildings from flooding. Our sister organization, The International Association of Structural Movers members elevate and relocate buildings to prevent them from flooding.

The climate is changing, the seas are rising and storms are becoming more frequent and intense, Ellicott City, Annapolis and the Maryland shores are all examples of where these changes are affecting us with rising flood risk. Our industry estimates 3-4 million older high flood risk, pre-flood map buildings in US flood zones. Buildings are assets and part of our infrastructure. We must have buildings for housing, work, learning and worship. Buildings produce the vital property tax revenues that fund our schools and government operations.

The rising flood risk is now resulting in radical rates for flood insurance for these flood vulnerable buildings. Rising flood risk and flood insurance rates threatens the values of these buildings. Our industry knows how to retro fit these buildings, flood hazard mitigation projects reduce flood risk and flood insurance rates. The only thing that has been missing has been the financing.

The Flood Mitigation Industry Association asks for a favorable vote to approve HB1312, the modification to the existing, first in the nation state revolving loan program for reducing natural hazards risk. The revisions involve adding a fund to provide loans to property owners to help them finance the flood hazard mitigation projects and a provision to forgive part or all of the loan for low to moderate income property owners providing equity in flood resilience adaptation. Thank you.

Roderick Scott, CFM
Board Chair
Flood Mitigation industry Association