



Town of Cheverly
6401 Forest Road
Cheverly, MD 20785

February 15, 2022

Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB 537

Dear Committee,

On September 10, 2020, The Town of Cheverly, watched as over six inches of rain fell in just a few hours. Route 50 that enters the Town was completely covered with water and mirrored a river. Cheverly's proximity to the Beaverdam Creek and the Anacostia River makes us no stranger to flooding, but we had never seen weather like this before.

Flooding overwhelmed multiple areas of the Town. Cheverly Police Department and the CERT responders had to rescue residents from their homes and vehicles. The stormwater management systems were completely overwhelmed and submerged with water from higher ground. And the rain kept coming.

There was so much water that the force began to break down doors and windows and flood basements up to the first floor of a number of homes. Some homes were also flooded by sewage backups resulting from the floodwaters. The flooding was devastating for all who were impacted.

Most individuals' insurance carriers have refused coverage despite being fully insured. A few families were offered limited cleanup and rehabilitation support for sewage backup in their homes. Residents with the means to do so were forced to take out a second mortgage on their homes, max out credit cards, or dip into retirement to attempt to rehabilitate their homes. The financial effects of this flood will follow them for years. While town leadership and community churches set up crowdfunding sources, barely enough was raised to cover the exorbitant expenses these homeowners incurred.

The financial situation for many Cheverly residents was far worse than we could have imagined. Several of the most-severely flood-affected residents lacked sufficient financial means to clean up and rehab their homes and their situations have grown substantially worse. Some

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residents continue to live with the effects of the storm. These residents have no way to remedy their situations and are in desperate need of financial assistance. The residents include elderly Cheverly community members, living on a fixed income with underlying health conditions, most of such conditions are obviously exacerbated by mold.

There are still residents living in homes with destroyed basements, mold creeping up their walls, no heat, and needing to boil water to warm it for use. The damage to the interior of their homes is extensive. In some cases, the damage extends to the exterior, requiring replacement of flood-collapsed basement stairwell retaining walls and exterior retaining walls necessary for protecting their homes. Efforts to provide these residents with help has been slow and simply not enough to make them whole.

The Town of Cheverly fully supports HB 537 and hopes to help our residents apply for the grant funds included in the bill. This type of legislation helps taxpayers who have done everything right but have still been left out in the cold because of policy, bureaucracy, and red tape. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Kayce Munyeneh
Mayor
Town of Cheverly