

**2.16.2023 LOS SB813.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alan K. Thompson

Position: FAV

# TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Support of Senate Bill 813 with Amendments - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Environmental Justice Funding**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park support Senate Bill 813 - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Environmental Justice Funding. SB 813 would require at least 40% of funding provided under the comprehensive flood management grant program to be used for projects located in or directly benefiting underserved or overburdened communities, and require the Governor to include in the annual State budget an appropriation of \$20,000,000 for the comprehensive flood management grant program in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

The Town of Riverdale Park has experienced multiple devastating flooding events in recent years that have severely impacted Town residents and businesses. The majority of the stormwater management infrastructure in Town is owned and managed by Prince George's County. The Town has serious and urgent concerns about the condition and capacity of Prince George's County stormwater management infrastructure yet recognizes the size and scope of the tasks required to design, fund, and construct new or improved stormwater infrastructure. The Town is supportive of any efforts to provide additional funding specifically to address the flooding issues that have drastically impacted Town residents and businesses.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation. If you require any additional information, please contact me at [akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:akthompson@riverdaleparkmd.gov).

Sincerely,



Alan K. Thompson  
Mayor

**SB0813-203822-01 (002).pdf**

Uploaded by: Alonzo Washington

Position: FAV



**SB0813/203822/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

20 FEB 23  
15:04:47

BY: Senator A. Washington  
(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee and the Budget and Taxation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 813

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 6, strike “benefitting census tracts with a certain EJ Score” and substitute “benefiting underserved or overburdened communities”; and strike in their entirety lines 10 through 14, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 23 on page 1 through line 11 on page 2, inclusive.

On page 5, strike beginning with “CENSUS” in line 3 down through “TOOL” in line 5 and substitute “UNDERSERVED OR OVERBURDENED COMMUNITIES”.

# **SB-813 Letter of Support - Hyattsville.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alonzo Washington

Position: FAV

Robert Croslin  
Mayor



Tracey E. Douglas  
City Administrator

February 21, 2023

Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chairman  
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB-813 Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program – Environmental Justice Funding

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

I am pleased to inform you of the City of Hyattsville's support of SB-813 Comprehensive Flood Management Program.

This bill will require that at least 40% of funding provided under the comprehensive flood management grant program to be used for projects located in or directly benefitting underserved and overburdened communities as defined by the Climate Solutions Now Act, specifically census tracts with an EJ Score of .76 or greater; and requiring the Governor to include in the annual State budget an appropriation of \$20,000,000 for the comprehensive flood management grant program in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Flooding poses an inherent risk to the safety and property of everyone one of Maryland's communities. These natural disasters are financially devastating to our local economies and unfortunately such events appear to be occurring both more frequently and with greater impact, due in part to climate change. These natural disasters are likely to create long-term financial distress in economically disadvantaged communities. While it is unlikely that the additional funding provided through SB-813 would make affected communities completely whole, it will provide a more appropriate level of funding for the Maryland Department of Environment to provide flood hazard mitigation programs to help communities identify their flood risks and proactively assist in providing solutions.

We thank the Committee for its consideration of SB-813 and look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Robert Croslin  
Mayor

cc: City Council  
Honorable Alonzo Washington, Maryland State Senate, District 22

# **Testimony in Support of SB 813.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alonzo Washington

Position: FAV

ALONZO T. WASHINGTON  
Legislative District 22  
Prince George's County

Judicial Proceedings Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 314  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3155 · 301-858-3155  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3155  
Fax 410-841-3699 · 301-858-3699  
Alonzo.Washington@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB 813 - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program -  
Environmental Justice Funding**

Over the past several years, I have seen how the impacts of climate change and flooding can be devastating to a community. Last summer's storms created several horrific floods in my District that led to millions in property damage, the closure of small businesses, and destruction of countless tree and natural landmarks.

Data collected from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows that over the past 20 years, rainfall, flooding and sea level have increased across Maryland, with precipitation growing by 2.63 inches per decade from 2000 to 2020. Precipitation is especially heavy in counties surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. When evaluating precipitation by year, coastal counties were consistently among those with the most precipitation over a 20-year period, according to analysis of data from NOAA. In 2018, Baltimore City had the highest annual precipitation in Maryland over the course of 20 years with 73.84 inches.

To help address the burgeoning issue of flooding in our community, I am sponsoring SB 813 to create an appropriation of \$20,000,000 for the State's comprehensive flood management grant program. This program directs funds to counties and municipalities for flood response and mitigation (75% of the cost is paid for by the State, 25% by the locality).

To ensure the funding is being used equitably, we have drafted an amendment to the bill which requires at least 40% of funding provided under the program to be used for projects located in or directly benefitting census tracts that are "overburdened or underserved."

These communities as defined as having at least 25% of the residents qualify as low income; at least 50% of the residents identify as nonwhite; or at least 15% of the residents have limited English proficiency. Adding these terms make the legislation consistent with the Climate Solutions Now Act passed last year, and this provision helps target funding in communities that have historically been without adequate State support.

This legislation will assist in achieving the State's goal of mitigating the impacts of climate change and creating environmental justice, while also providing much needed support to our local jurisdictions.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable committee report on SB 813.



**SB0813-EEE\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



## Senate Bill 813

### *Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Environmental Justice Funding*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
and Budget and Taxation Committees

Date: February 23, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 813. This bill would provide additional resources for counties undertaking flood management and mitigation efforts.

Counties bear a central role in managing the flood prevention and stormwater infrastructure. This responsibility strikes at the very purpose of government: to provide for the betterment of public health and safety. Local governments operate nearly all the stormwater and flood prevention infrastructure within Maryland, a responsibility local leaders accept with care.

SB 813 expands the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program by increasing funding to \$20 million, and requires that at least forty percent of those funds go toward certain communities with high environmental justice concerns. This critical program provides local governments with additional resources to prevent flooding and mitigate against some of the worst impacts of climate change. Without increased state-level investment in flood mitigation or prevention, many of the costs associated with these projects will be borne by local governments, potentially overburdening the scale suitable for local remediation ability.

SB 813 directs investment toward flood mitigation and prevention work that serves all Marylanders. Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 813.

**SB 813 - MoCo\_Fitzgerald\_FAV (GA 23).pdf**

Uploaded by: Garrett Fitzgerald

Position: FAV



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

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**SB 813**

**DATE: February 23, 2023**

**SPONSOR: Senator A. Washington**

**ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy and the Environment**

**CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: Favorable (Department of Environmental Protection)**

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### **Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Environmental Justice Funding**

Flooding is the most frequent severe weather event and the costliest natural disaster. Floods not only affect high-risk coastal areas but according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 25% of flood insurance claims come from moderate-to-low-risk areas like Montgomery County. Just one inch of floodwater can cause up to \$25,000 in damage. Montgomery County is committed to addressing adverse flood impacts to residents and businesses in the County.

Flooding can be especially devastating to community members with pre-existing vulnerabilities that might impact their capacity to prevent, prepare for, and cope with flooding. Pollution exposure, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors can contribute to systemic vulnerability and cause some communities to be at inherently higher risk. The Maryland Department of the Environment's EJ Screening Tool analyzes key socioeconomic factors to identify potential environmental justice ("EJ") or overburdened communities through calculation of an EJ Score.

This bill will require that at least 40% of funding provided under the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program be used for projects located in or directly benefitting census tracts with an EJ Score of .76 or greater. This is an important provision to ensure that funding is prioritized to support communities most vulnerable to the impacts of the flooding. Montgomery County includes more than two dozen census tracts that would qualify under this requirement.

This bill will also increase the minimum budget of the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program to \$20 million starting in fiscal year 2025. This represents a significant budget increase, and likely still meets only a small percentage of the need and opportunity for this program to benefit Maryland residents.

We respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 813.

# **SB813 Written Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jose Coronado Flores

Position: FAV



**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB813**  
**Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Environmental Justice Funding**  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Jose Coronado-Flores , On Behalf of CASA

February 23, 2023

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of SB813 - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Environmental Justice Funding**. CASA is the largest immigrant services and advocacy organization in Maryland, and in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 120,000 Black and Latino immigrants and working families.

SB813 is important legislation that will address the inconveniences, damages, and dangers that flooding has on underserved and overburdened communities in Maryland. In particular, CASA is invested in seeing this bill pass, because our members reside in communities where flooding and stormwater management is often inadequate. Behind The Villas Apartments in Langley Park, there is a local pathway that many residents in the community utilize to access the McCormick Elementary School and the Boys and Girls Club. During moderate to severe rain, this pathway floods and mixes with dirt and pollution. Parents trying to take their kids to school must trudge through mud and trash just to get their kids to school.

Furthermore, CASA members reside in Rock Creek Wood Apartments in Rockville, MD. This particular complex is notorious for severe flooding. Flooding in this community goes beyond inconvenience as severe flooding last year resulted in a death and 150 tenants displaced<sup>1</sup>. Property damages, loss of valuables, and the trauma evoked by these events add to the reasons why communities like Rock Creek need better flood management. Looking at the census tract in which this complex lies shows that over 40% of the population is low-income and over 50% is non-white.<sup>2</sup>

Rains and severe weather are only going to intensify and occur more frequently, and, without action, our most vulnerable communities are going to keep suffering. For this reason, CASA urges a favorable report.

Jose Coronado-Flores

Research and Policy Analyst

jcoronado@wearecasa.org, 240-393-7840

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<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/maryland/rock-creek-woods-apartments-flood-sensor-to-be-installed/65-deea97d8-b39b-4569-a262-078520a6d2b9>

<sup>2</sup> <https://mdewin64.mde.state.md.us/EJ/>

# **Support SB 813\_MDLCV and sign ons.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rebecca Rehr

Position: FAV



February 22, 2023

## **SUPPORT SB 813 Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Environmental Justice Funding**

Chairs Feldman and Guzzone, and Members of the Committees:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters and the organizations cosigned below are writing in support of SB813, a bill to increase the funding available to the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program (CFMGP) and to allocate at least 40% of this funding to communities with environmental justice (EJ) concerns. We also support the anticipated sponsor amendments to include language prioritizing “overburdened” and “underserved” communities, to align with the language in Maryland statute.

Immediate effects of flooding are well understood. We can all picture, and many of us have experienced, floodwaters rushing through our streets during a storm, damaging our homes and community infrastructure. Flooding can also have longer term impacts if its effects are not fully remediated, like the presence of black mold in homes, which is an asthma trigger and respiratory irritant. We agree with the [Maryland Department of the Environment’s assessment of the CFMGP](#): With climate change resulting in more frequent and intense storms in Maryland, the CFMGP is more relevant now than ever.

This bill, through its allocation of funds to overburdened and underserved communities, recognizes that those who contribute least to climate change are often the ones to suffer first and worst from its consequences. Incorporating the federal Justice 40 initiative across environmental programs is one way we can correct for past injustices, and support communities who bear the brunt of pollution and environmental degradation.

We thank Senator Washington for his leadership in introducing this bill and urge a favorable report.

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

NAACP Maryland State Conference  
Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health (SESH)  
Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH)  
CASA  
Waterkeepers Chesapeake  
Clean Water Action  
One Montgomery Green



**SB0813\_IndivisibleHoCoMD\_FAV\_VirginiaSmith.pdf**

Uploaded by: Virginia Smith

Position: FAV



## **SB813 – Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program – Environmental Justice Funding**

**Testimony before**

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**February 23, 2023**

**Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Mdm. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB813**, which would require at least 40% of funding provided under the comprehensive flood management grant program to be used for projects in areas with an EJ Score of 0.76 or greater. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Senator Washington in sponsoring this important legislation.

Climate change is the most pressing issue the world must deal with, and Maryland is no exception. It is expected that during the next century, both the average annual amount of precipitation and frequency of heavy downpours will keep rising. This will lead to increased flood threats. I think we all remember the two 1000-year floods that hit Ellicott City within two years and the damage they caused. An increase in flood damage requires the state to act to recover from these events. This bill will increase the amount of money appropriated to the comprehensive flood management grant program from \$2,000,000 to \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and will require this appropriation to continue for years after. This 10 fold increase is necessary due to the increasing impact of climate change on Maryland.

But as is so often stated, it is low-income and minority communities that may be hit the hardest. So, it is necessary that this bill requires that at least 40% of the funding shall be used for projects located in or directly benefiting lands with an EJ Score of 0.76 or greater.

For these reasons, we support SB813.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

Virginia Smith  
Columbia, MD 21044

**MDE SB0813 LOI.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tyler Abbott

Position: INFO



February 23, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 813 - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Environmental Justice Funding**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed Senate Bill 813 and would like to provide the following information and proposed amendments. MDE has been working with the Senate sponsor on this legislation and appreciates the consideration of the Department's amendments.

Senate Bill 813 would require the Governor to include in the annual State budget, an appropriation for the comprehensive flood management grant program of at least \$20,000,000 each fiscal year starting in fiscal year (FY) 2025. Additionally, the bill would require that at least 40% of the funding in each FY (minimum \$8,000,000) be provided under the program be used for projects located in or directly benefiting census tracts with an Environmental Justice (EJ) Score of .76 or greater, as identified using the Maryland EJ Tool.

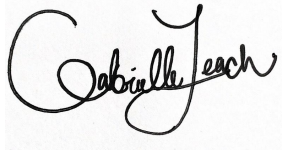
Amendment:

Through the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 (CSNA), MDE was provided a definition of "overburdened" and "underserved." In order to be consistent with the CSNA, MDE would like to substitute EJ Score and Maryland EJ Tool with overburdened OR underserved within the language. MDE spoke with the sponsor's office and they agreed to the mentioned amendments.

**These amendments would include striking (e) and (j) on Page 2 and inserting the definitions of overburdened and underserved per CSNA. Additionally on Page 5, strike "OR DIRECTLY BENEFITING CENSUS TRACTS WITH AN EJ SCORE OF .76 OR GREATER, AS IDENTIFIED USING THE MARYLAND EJ TOOL" and insert, "AN OVERBURDENED OR UNDERSERVED AREA."**

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor SB 813 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-453-3235 or by e-mail at [gabrielle.leach@maryland.gov](mailto:gabrielle.leach@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabriele Leach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "L".

Gabriele Leach  
Deputy Director, Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations

Cc: The Honorable Alonzo Washington