



**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.

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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/>