



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