

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