



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 892

Environment - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program -
Funding for Overburdened Communities

Date: March 9, 2023

To: Environment & Transportation Committee
Appropriations Committee

Position: **SUPPORT**

From: Matt Stegman,
Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 892 which would require an annual appropriation for the comprehensive flood management grant in the amount of \$20 million, further directing at least 40% of that funding be provided to overburdened communities. As climate change continues to contribute to persistent flooding issues across Maryland, investment is needed to make communities more resilient.

Communities of color and low-income communities around the region are often hit the hardest by the rising temperatures, extreme weather and more-frequent flooding brought on by climate change. Rapidly rising sea levels mean more "sunny day" or "nuisance" flooding. Driven by high tides, these floods regularly overwhelm roads that residents rely on to get to work or run their daily errands.

While flooding is a persistent issue in need of additional resources in communities across Maryland, this bill importantly recognizes that those who have contributed least to climate change are often the ones who suffer the earliest and most severe consequences of it. This bill provides much-needed resources for communities dealing with flooding issues statewide, but ensures a significant portion of those resources are needed most.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 892.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.