



**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Testimony on:** HB0892 - Environment - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Overburdened Communities  
**Organization:** Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing  
**Submitting:** Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair  
**Position:** Favorable with Amendments  
**Hearing Date:** March 9, 2023

Dear Mr. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB892.

HB892 requires extension of the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program, which is currently authorized in the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for at least \$2.0 million in fiscal 2023. Starting in fiscal 2025 and each year thereafter, the bill requires the Governor to include at least \$20.0 million in the annual budget and at least 40% of the funding be used for projects located in or directly benefiting census tracts with an Environmental Justice (EJ) Score of .76 or greater, as determined using the Maryland EJ tool.

The Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program allows MDE to provide grants to local governments for:

- flood control and watershed management capital projects and capital costs of automated flood warning projects;
- acquisition of any flood damaged owner-occupied dwelling, immediately after a flood; and
- infrastructure repairs, watershed management, or emergency protection work if the local government has incurred at least \$1.0 million in infrastructure damage caused by a flood event that occurred on or after January 1, 2009.

Climate change is and will continue to exacerbate flooding in Maryland. The effects of increased flooding on already overburdened communities will compound the problems that exist in these communities from higher pollution burdens and other longstanding environmental assaults. HB 892 acknowledges the effects of climate change on flooding and

the disproportionate burdens on EJ communities by extending the flood management grant program and directing 40% of grant funds to these EJ communities.

The Climate Justice Wing strongly supports the extension of this important program and the funding priorities for EJ communities. We urge a **FAVORABLE** report in committee for HB892.