



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 449

Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Underserved and Overburdened Communities

Date: February 22, 2024

To: Environment & Transportation Committee
Appropriations Committee

Position:

Favorable

From:

Matt Stegman
Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 449 which would increase funding for the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program and directing at least 40% of that funding be directed towards projects located in and directly serving 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 directed into communities where they are needed most.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 449.

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 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.