



February 22, 2024

SUPPORT HB 449

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

Chairs Korman and Barnes, and Members of the Committees:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters and the organizations cosigned below are writing in support of HB 449, a bill to increase funding for the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program (CFMGP) and to allocate at least 40% of this funding for projects located in or directly benefiting underserved or overburdened communities.

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 Delegate Ivey for his leadership in introducing this bill, which passed the House last year, and urge a favorable report.

Maryland League of Conservation
Voters
Arundel Rivers Federation
Assateague Coastal Trust
CASA
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Earthjustice
Indivisible HoCoMD
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Maryland Legislative Coalition

Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate
Justice Wing
Potomac Conservancy
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
ShoreRivers
The Nature Conservancy
Unitarian Universalist Legislative
Ministry of Maryland
Waterkeepers Chesapeake