



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0148
COMPREHENSIVE FLOOD MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM – FUNDING FOR
UNDERSERVED AND OVERBURDENED COMMUNITIES**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Washington

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0148 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

In Maryland, the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program exists to help localities with watershed studies to try to find ways to reduce our exposure to property loss and loss of lives due to flooding. The flooding problem is only getting worse with sea level rise and the effects of violent storms due to climate change.

This bill, if enacted, would raise the total amount set aside for grants from 2,000,000 to 20,000,000. It would also direct 40% of those funds for projects located in or directly benefitting underserved and overburdened communities.

Our members believe that we, as a state, should be more proactive in the face of climate change and protect communities that are at risk of flooding, most particularly those communities that lack the funds to protect themselves.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.