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BILL NO.: **SB 148**

TITLE: **Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program – Funding for Underserved and Overburdened Communities**

SPONSOR: **Senator Washington**

COMMITTEE: **Education, Energy, and the Environment**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 6, 2024**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** SB148 - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program – Funding for Underserved and Overburdened Communities and its requirement to dedicate 40% of appropriated funds in the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) underserved and overburdened communities.

Baltimore County has several communities meeting the definition of underserved and overburden. These communities are most often low-to-moderate income residents and are often communities of color. One such community, Turner Station, located in the southeast corner of our county has experienced repeated flooding from rainfall and stormwater runoff, as well as tidal surge that undermines the efficacy of the limited drainage infrastructure. Baltimore County supported the creation of the SDRF last year to bring needed resources to communities that do not qualify for formal disaster designations. Because these impacts are often most acute in communities least able to afford the disruptive impacts, Baltimore County supports dedicated 40% of these resources to our residents who may need them most.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 148 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.