



# TOWN OF COLMAR MANOR

---

2/20/2024

Thursday, February 22, 2024

**Mayor Monica Casañas**

**Town Council**

Maliek Harding, Ward 1  
Irina Hobbs, Ward 2  
Keith Brooks, Ward 3  
Melinda Mendoza, Ward 4

**Clerk-Treasurer**

Dan Baden

**Town Administrator**

Greg Holcomb

**Chief of Police**

Tracy Stone

**Public Works Supervisor**

Al Niemann

**Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 449 - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Underserved and Overburdened Communities**

Dear Honorable Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of the Town of Colmar Manor, affectionately known as "The Little Town That Can," I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 449. This bill, which seeks to establish the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program, is a beacon of hope for communities, particularly those like ours, that are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change and rising sea levels.

Colmar Manor, with its significant minority and Latino population, is emblematic of the communities most vulnerable to the escalating threats of sea-level rise and flooding. Historical data since the founding of Maryland in the 1600s shows a sea-level rise of 3 feet, with current projections indicating an additional rise of 1.3 to 5.2 feet over the next century. This presents a dire situation for our residents and necessitates immediate and effective action to mitigate these risks.

It is a well-documented fact that 44% of Latinos reside in counties with a high flood risk, compared to 35% of non-Latinos. This disparity is not coincidental but the result of decades of land-use decisions and infrastructure investments that have disproportionately exposed certain communities to environmental hazards.

HB 449 represents a crucial step towards rectifying these disparities by providing targeted funding and support to underserved and overburdened communities. By acknowledging the unique challenges faced by these communities and offering tangible solutions, this bill aligns with our town's ethos of resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

In conclusion, the Town of Colmar Manor urges the committee to support HB 449 wholeheartedly. By doing so, you will affirm your commitment to equity, environmental justice, and the protection of Maryland's most vulnerable communities from the increasingly palpable threats of climate change and flooding.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your favorable consideration of this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

**Monica Casañas**

Mayor, Town of Colmar Manor

*"The Little Town that Can"*

3701 Lawrence St, Colmar Manor, MD 20722

P (301) 277-4920 | F (301)699-5245 | [www.colmarmanor.org](http://www.colmarmanor.org)