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TESTIMONY ON SB#0042 - AVORABLE

Environment - Interjurisdictional Watersheds Flood Management

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0042, Environment - Interjurisdictional Watersheds - Flood Management

This bill will facilitate local jurisdictions most affected by flood hazard watersheds as the responsibility of the affected jurisdictions in how those conditions are more effectively dealt with. The bill will require the Department of the Environment to designate the watersheds of Carroll Creek in Frederick City and Frederick County, Gwynns Falls and Jones Falls in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, and Herring Run, including the Herring Run Stream in Baltimore City and Baltimore County and all their headwaters and tributaries as interjurisdictional flood hazard watersheds.

The essence of flood control and risk reduction is empowering affected government bodies the ability to “provide reliable flood protection and risk reduction through well managed and maintained infrastructure, including appropriate floodplain connections for water conveyance and ecosystem benefits, and management of surface and storm water runoff to better protect life, property and economies.”¹ This bill would be Maryland making the statement that we will create conditions that let’s us do the most effective and efficient job in meeting these goals.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0042.

¹ <https://americaswatershed.org/reportcard/the-goals/flood-control-risk-reduction/>