



February 27, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: OPPOSE-- SB 687 (Environment – Flood Risk Review Process - Establishment)

Dear Chair Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Municipal Stormwater Association (MAMSA), I am writing to **OPPOSE SB 687**, which would require that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) implement a flood risk review process for certain areas of the State if development is proposed in those areas.

MAMSA is an association of the State's local governments and leading stormwater consultant firms who work for clean water and safe infrastructure based on sound science and good public policy.

MAMSA objects to SB 687 because it is unnecessary.

MDE has been working diligently for several years now to implement Advancing Stormwater Resiliency in Maryland (A-StoRM) (SB 227, 2021). In fact, in September, 2024, MDE issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to update its stormwater regulations and the State's Stormwater Design Manual. From MDE's ANPRM: "The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is considering revisions to regulations in COMAR 26.17.02, with a focus on updating stormwater management requirements and the design manual to reflect modern rainfall data, climate-driven flood risks, and statewide consistency." MDE's work is meant to address the increased potential for flooding from development and redevelopment. SB 687 is unnecessary given MDE's significant progress in updating the State's stormwater requirements.

MAMSA supports allowing MDE to move forward with its A-StoRM efforts, without adding more tasks to MDE's worklist (e.g., requiring MDE to evaluate broad development patterns in a watershed before approving a permit).

For the reasons above, MAMSA urges the Committee to **Vote NO** on SB 687.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at Lisa@AquaLaw.com or 804-716-9021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Ochsenhirt".

Lisa M. Ochsenhirt
MAMSA Deputy General Counsel

cc: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members, SB 687 Sponsor