



Catonsville Indivisible Group

Support for Senate Bill 687 Environment – Flood Risk Review Process- Establishment

My name is Susan Radke and am a co-leader with Catonsville Indivisible Group, a grassroots group of constituents living in Catonsville, Southwest Baltimore County, Maryland who are dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values.

The Catonsville Indivisible Group and I support Senate Bill 687 which requires the Department of the Environment to establish and implement a flood risk review process for certain areas identified as being at risk of tidal and non-tidal flooding and applying the review of certain plans and permits to be incorporated into a local stormwater management approval process.

Currently, there is development occurring along the Patapsco River at the old Ellicott Mill in Oella where the flour mill is being redeveloped into multi-use 190 luxury apartments, retail and destination restaurants in a flood plain. Baltimore County approved four additional floors to this building, and to this date, there appears to be no final flood management plan for this structure. Ellicott City and Oella has a long history of flooding because of the Howard County watersheds as well as flooding from the Patapsco River. Although there was a flood risk review process the no final flood management plan will impact the new development being built in Oella, MD. Howard County is remediating flash flooding events in Ellicott City by diverting stormwater directly into the Patapsco River right above the luxury apartment development where the land is not high enough to prevent flooding. This area is an interjurisdictional waterway where county risk review processes differ and there is no collaboration between the counties to address flood risk reviews, nor how to reduce the environmental hazards that ultimately affect the Chesapeake Bay. Further, this bill will also ensure that future development will address areas of development in Turner Station, the Inner

Harbor, Fells Point and Caton areas of Baltimore City as well as other areas throughout the State of Maryland.

Therefore, Senate Bill 687 will ensure these areas at risk of tidal and non-tidal flooding are responsibly managed and that all flood management plans are subject to review and approval.

The Catonsville Indivisible Group and I urge the Senate to vote yes and pass this legislation with no amendments.

Susan Radke, co-leader, on behalf of the Catonsville Indivisible Group.