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FAVORABLE - HB 254

Supporting Inclusive Community Adaptation Act Environment and Transportation Committee

Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Hearing Date: 11 FEB 2026

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes in support of **HB 254 – Supporting Inclusive Community Adaptation Act**. This bill seeks to enhance community involvement in project planning and development as well as establishes a capital grant fund to support resilience work.

Community Participation. The Department works closely with county governments to develop and implement hazard mitigation strategies to reduce risk, with particular emphasis on vulnerable and underserved communities. The Department also administers the federal hazard mitigation funding programs available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In recent site visits, nonprofits have highlighted compensating community members for participation in risk reduction activities as a best practice, resulting in enhanced community buy-in as well as improved relationships with local and State government entities.

Resilience Through Restoration Capital Grant Fund. The 2021 State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) lists *promoting actions that protect natural resources while enhancing hazard mitigation and community resilience*, and *promoting the development of policies, programs, initiatives, and projects that prioritize diversity, equity, and environmental justice* as two priority areas for the State hazard mitigation efforts. Establishing the Restoration Capital Grant Fund within DNR will assist in expanding resources for government and nonprofit organizations to support achieving the goals of the SHMP.

In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report of **HB 254 - Supporting Inclusive Community Adaptation Act**. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.