



March 3, 2021

The Honorable Sarah K. Elfreth
Senator, Maryland General Assembly
James Senate Office Building Room 103
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for SB 227, Water Pollution - Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Implementation Plans - Review and Update

Dear Senator Elfreth:

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to offer our support for your bill, SB 227, Water Pollution - Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Implementation Plans - Review and Update. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports Maryland's Department of the Environment efforts to update technical standards to reduce Maryland's vulnerability to flooding and increase climate resiliency, which aligns with our 2021 Legislative Priorities.

Efforts to address climate change and to restore the Chesapeake Bay are relying on outdated precipitation and storm design standards. The frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation events have been increasing compared to historical records, and throughout our region, we have seen flooding overwhelm stormwater best management practices and contribute to increased water pollution. COG acknowledges and appreciates the efforts underway by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Program to update projected climate change models, and precipitation data, including intensity, duration, and frequency curves. The bill would increase resilience in our region and the Chesapeake Bay by requiring regular updates to stormwater design standards. We particularly support the requirement to consult with local governments on the impacts of the proposed regulatory changes.

Please contact Steven Bieber, COG's Water Resources Program Director at (202) 962-3219 or sbieber@mwkog.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Laurie-Anne Sayles'.

Laurie-Anne Sayles
Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee
City of Gaithersburg