



**MARYLAND**  
*Association of*  
**COUNTIES**

## **House Bill 537**

### *Housing and Community Development - Homeowner's Extreme Weather Mitigation and Preparation Grant Program*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Date: February 15, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 537. This bill would, among other provisions, create a grant program aiding homeowners, local governments, and nonprofit organizations in mitigating against water damage caused by extreme weather.

Extreme weather events have become more and more commonplace as climate change has worsened. In Maryland, significant flooding events have resulted in the ruin of numerous homes and businesses. To date, the State of Maryland and its county governments have mostly provided aid after the fact.

HB 537 would create an invaluable tool to prevent the damage inflicted by extreme weather, ensuring it is limited and potentially avoided altogether. This bill will protect our shared communities. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 537 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.