



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**HB 295
Support**

House Environment and Transportation Committee

January 27, 2021

**HB295 Water Pollution - Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Implementation Plans
- Review and Update**

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Takoma Park supports the intent of this bill, and urges a favorable vote.

This bill would address the significant problem of nutrient sediment pollution control into our rivers, streams and the Chesapeake Bay. It would also help local governments statewide improve our resilience to the very real and rapidly growing flooding and stormwater impacts of a rapidly changing climate. Across the state we have already seen these impacts of more intense storms with more frequent, higher rainfall, and with greater consequences at the local level, both environmental and economic.

Takoma Park is no exception to this. Takoma Park has a local stormwater utility, a stormwater permit program, and a state NPDES permit. Locally, we have seen an increase in extreme rainfall that overwhelms our local infrastructure and affects our residents. Our residents are seeking stronger action on stormwater management, yet our municipality's hands are tied by the state's outdated regulations and underlying standards, adopted in 2000 and updated only in 2009. With a rapidly changing climate and a wealth of more current reliable scientific data available, it's critical that we base our efforts on this current scientific information about our changing patterns of rainfall. This a critical step to building in resilience to climate change across our state.