

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 416
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3565
800-492-7122 Ext. 3565
Mike.McKay@senate.maryland.gov

Cumberland Office
100N Mechanic Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502
240-362-7040

Williamsport Office
2N Conococheque Street
Williamsport Town Hall
Williamsport, Maryland

Georges Creek Task Force Action Report Funding and Policy Intent

February 28, 2026

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the proposed budget intent language advancing the recommendations of the Georges Creek Task Force Action Report to mitigate future flooding impacts in Allegany County. This measure provides a coordinated and proactive framework directing the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, Maryland Department of the Environment, and Maryland Department of Transportation to work collaboratively to strengthen flood resilience, improve infrastructure protections, and enhance emergency response capacity. By prioritizing policy revisions, legislative proposals, and funding allocations, the proposal reflects a comprehensive approach to safeguarding communities and preventing future losses in the Georges Creek watershed.

The devastating flooding that occurred in May 2025 caused significant damage to homes, businesses, and critical public infrastructure, underscoring the urgent need for sustained State action. The Task Force recommendations address key recovery and mitigation priorities, including reimbursement for damages not covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, enhanced coordination with federal partners, investment in floodproofing and relocation of vulnerable infrastructure, and the development of long-term flood mitigation strategies such as voluntary property buyouts and hydraulic studies. Additionally, the proposal strengthens local and regional capacity through training, infrastructure investment, stream maintenance, and environmental protection measures that balance public safety with responsible stewardship.

The Georges Creek Task Force Action Report Funding and Policy Intent further supports the provision requiring ongoing accountability and transparency through regular reporting by the Western Maryland delegation on flood mitigation progress. This oversight ensures continued focus on implementation and reinforces the State's commitment to protecting residents, supporting economic stability, and improving disaster preparedness. For these reasons, I respectfully request favorable consideration of this intent language as a critical step toward building long-term resilience and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of communities impacted by flooding in the Georges Creek region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties