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## **Executive Kittleman applauds additional state funds to assist Ellicott City flood victims**

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman praised today's action by the Maryland Board of Public Works to provide \$2.5 million in funding to assist small businesses and property owners in Ellicott City as they recover from the devastating flooding on July 30.

In a 2-0 vote, the board approved the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) as an eligible fund manager, and granted the department \$2.5 million from the Small, Minority and Women-Owned Business Account to make loans to eligible businesses in Ellicott City. Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford chaired the bi-weekly meeting of the board, with Comptroller Peter Franchot in attendance. Treasurer Nancy Kopp was absent.

"We are so appreciative that the State has stepped up with this important support for these affected businesses," said Kittleman. "Governor Hogan and Comptroller Franchot have been in regular contact with us from the earliest moments of this emergency. We've made a lot of progress in our recovery, but there is still much more to be done. This funding will continue that momentum."

Using these funds, DHCD will provide short-term and long-term assistance, in the form of zero and low interest loans, to enable affected businesses to re-open either in Ellicott City or in a temporary, alternate location. The loans will also allow for business and property owners to re-stock inventory, complete repairs, replace furniture and fixtures, reimburse for lost revenues and working capital, and meet other immediate needs.

Additionally, the Hogan administration is requesting the Legislative Policy Committee to approve the transfer of \$2.5 million from the Catastrophic Event Fund to DHCD's Neighborhood BusinessWorks program to provide additional aid to Ellicott City businesses and property owners affected by the flooding. Kittleman requested support from this fund at the encouragement of Howard County State Senator Edward Kasemeyer, who chairs the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

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