



News Release

Comptroller Lierman Submits Formal Comment Opposing FEMA Review Council Recommendations

Comptroller warns proposed reforms would leave communities less safe and less resilient

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 8, 2026) — As extreme weather grows more frequent and more severe, **Maryland Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman** today submitted formal public comments to the Department of Homeland Security opposing key recommendations in the [FEMA Review Council's Final Report](#), issued May 8, 2026. Comptroller Lierman warned that the proposed overhaul would shift significant financial burdens onto states, make it harder for communities to qualify for federal disaster relief, and undermine the National Flood Insurance Program at a time when climate risks are accelerating.

Maryland is among the most climate-exposed states in the nation. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the state has experienced 85 confirmed weather or climate disaster events between 1980 and 2024, each causing losses exceeding \$1 billion. The state has more than 3,000 miles of shoreline, roughly 133,700 properties facing substantial flood risk, and sea levels along Maryland's coast are projected to rise by 1 to 1.5 feet by 2050. In 2021 alone, the City of Crisfield on the Eastern Shore experienced 80 days of high-tide flooding.

The comment letter points to the May 2025 flash flooding in Western Maryland, where FEMA estimated recovery costs at more than \$15.8 million and total estimates reached closer to \$33 million, as a direct example of the stakes. FEMA denied the state’s request for disaster recovery assistance, a decision Comptroller Lierman called emblematic of a troubling federal retreat from disaster responsibility.

The Council’s recommendations would make it significantly harder for states to qualify for disaster relief, reduce the federal cost-share for public assistance, tie funding to pre-defined parameters rather than individual damage assessments, and shift National Flood Insurance Program policies to private carriers — a move the letter warns would drive up premiums and leave more households uninsured in high-risk areas. Many of the proposed changes come with an implementation timeline of two to three years, which the letter argues is not feasible for states to build the fiscal and operational capacity required.

“The federal government has a responsibility to support states when disaster strikes, not leave them behind,” **Comptroller Lierman** wrote. “As extreme weather events grow more frequent and more severe, the federal government’s role should be expanding, not retreating.”

The comment calls on DHS to rethink its approach, consult with state and local governments, and develop policies that protect Americans and the broader economy.

[The full comment letter is available here.](#)

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