



# CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

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## Favorable Testimony -- HB 1520 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair and Appropriations Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1520, which establishes the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

The City of College Park has worked with the Environmental Finance Center's Sustainable Maryland (SM) program since it was established nearly a decade ago. We are a Certified Sustainable Maryland community and have been re-certified twice.

The Sustainable Maryland certification review process and ongoing technical assistance and resources have been helpful to College Park as it developed and updated its sustainability reports. College Park staff have participated in many training sessions offered by SM, and the training and opportunities to share have been first-rate.

More broadly, the statewide results of the Sustainable Maryland program are impressive:

- Created 76 Green Teams across the Bay watershed
- Engaged half of the state's 157 municipalities and designated a quarter as "Sustainable Maryland Certified"
- Cataloged over 900 individual sustainability actions
- Engaged more than 1,400 elected officials, staff, and residents
- Installed more than 170 pet waste stations in 17 municipalities across
- Assisted 19 communities with implementing watershed stewardship programming for residents

Given the Program's demonstrated success and impact, and the significant environmental challenges facing every community in Maryland, I urge you to support the creation of the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

This funding will enable Sustainable Maryland to expand its reach and provide important sustainability training and resources to more Maryland communities. It has been and will continue to be a cost-effective program to achieve significant public environmental benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Patrick L. Wojahn  
Mayor