

The Town of
GLEN ECHO
Chartered 1904

Town Hall • 6106 Harvard Avenue • P.O. Box 598 • Glen Echo • MD 20812 • (301) 320-4041

January 21, 2022

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair and
Members of the Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the Town Council and residents of Glen Echo, I urge a "YES" vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. We have greatly benefited from the technical assistance, education, and resources provided by the Sustainable Maryland (SM) program. This bill to expand and enhance SM is a critical step in the State's effort to empower local action and realize statewide environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Over the past 11 years, SM has supported municipal governments across the State by providing jurisdictions like ours with a comprehensive suite of policies, resources, direct support, and incentives designed to help municipalities make progress across a broad range of sustainability goals. In addition, SM has helped communities build a strong network of active residents committed to building the capacity of local governments and improving local-level sustainability throughout the state. This bill to establish an SM Program Fund will help codify this statewide effort and ensure local governments have the education, technical assistance, and financial resources necessary to improve quality of life.

The Town of Glen Echo has been greatly supported by Sustainable Maryland since 2018. SM helped us inspire and then initiate our first ever Green Team in the town and assisted us with their knowledge and technical support. SM provided a volunteer University of Maryland student to help us develop a Sustainable Glen Echo website with valuable resources for residents. Another student developed a Glen Echo Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory. SM provided further education in workshops which were helpful and very much appreciated. We received our certification in 2021. The Glen Echo residents are supportive and proud of the Town's accomplishment and commitment to our new and measurable environmental actions which we could not have done with out Sustainable Maryland.,

Through the SM program we have received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, established a plan for taking action, and

increased our ability to pursue funding to improve our community. The SM program has become a primary driver for building community capacity to engage in sustainability projects. By supporting this bill, the state will help to elevate and amplify these efforts. The SM Program Fund will help to replicate and scale Green Teams to other local jurisdictions and provide much needed funding to pursue new and innovative community-based projects.

The State should take this opportunity to expand and support this high-performing program in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dia Costello", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Dia Costello
Mayor of Glen Echo