



March 3, 2020

Chair Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Vice-Chair Delegate Michael A. Jackson
Appropriations Committee

RE: House Bill 1520 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund
Maryland Black Mayors, Inc., Jacqueline Goodall, Exec. Dir.
Strongly Support HB 1520

Dear Honorable Delegates,

The 18 member mayors of the Maryland Black Mayors, Inc. strongly support the proposed HB 1520 establishing a non-lapsing fund to support the continuation of the Sustainable Maryland Program.

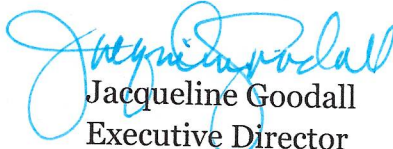
Since the kick-off of the Sustainable Maryland Program at the Maryland Municipal Leagues Summer Convention in 2011, most of our member towns have benefitted from the assistance of Sustainable Maryland to help develop programs within our towns. The technical assistance that has been provided to our municipalities has been invaluable. Sustainable Maryland's staff have helped our town's ability to improve our sustainability goals set forth in the Sustainable Communities Act of 2010 goals.

Our members have utilized the services of Sustainable Maryland for public outreach and engagement with our citizens, establishment of Green Teams, assistance in writing grants to agencies within Maryland i.e. Department of Energy (MEA), Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and foundations such as the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), as well as developing Stormwater plans for our communities and so much more.

The Sustainable Maryland program has helped our elected officials, staff and residents understand the intricacies of becoming a sustainable community and to reach the municipalities Maryland Sustainable goals. The staff of Sustainable Maryland over the years have worked with our towns to establish practices, projects and programs to work towards the goal of becoming sustainable – Environmentally, Economically and Socially.

Without the assistance that the program offers, it is doubtful that many of our smaller communities would have come as far as we have in moving towards sustainability. In addition, the work that the Sustainable Maryland Program does for the towns are a no cost. As mayors, we understand the need for funding to continue doing great works and strongly support the House Bill 1520 for a non-lapsing fund for the Sustainable Maryland Program.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Goodall
Executive Director
Maryland Black Mayors, Inc.