



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

March 5, 2020

**Committee:** House Appropriations

**Bill:** HB 1520 – Sustainable Program Maryland Fund -- Establishment

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 1520, which would establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund to expand and enhance Sustainable Maryland's promotion and support of communities in the State to realize environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

For nearly 10 years, the Sustainable Maryland program has been helping Maryland cities and towns reach their sustainability goals through training, resource identification, and a wildly popular certification program that incentivizes reaching those goals. Seventy-nine municipalities participate in the program, stretching from Garrett County to Wicomico County, and that number increases every single year. As the association representing the state's 157 incorporated cities and towns, the Maryland Municipal League understands how critical Sustainable Maryland's support of these efforts is to the ongoing viability of the environmental protection, community health and economic development efforts emanating from communities throughout the state.

Because the tenuous nature of Sustainable Maryland funding threatens the ongoing viability of this critical program, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 1520 with a favorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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