



March 5, 2020

Madame Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson and Members of the House Appropriations Committee  
House Appropriations Committee  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: HB 1520 Maryland Sustainable Program Fund – Establishment**

Dear Madame Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, I am writing to convey our support for HB 1520, which would establish the Sustainable Maryland Fund Program and enhance Sustainable Maryland's promotion and support of communities across Maryland as they seek to realize environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Gaithersburg supports a healthy, productive environment with clean air and clean water. Our environmental program focuses on collaborative efforts to understand the issues and develop strategies that protect and enhance our environmental resources. With this in mind, Sustainable Maryland's program initiatives and framework fit well with our commitment to meet the needs of the City in a manner that reflects the community's desire for environmental health and economic prosperity, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet these same needs.<sup>1</sup>

Our partnership with Sustainable Maryland began in 2013. We are proud "Green Team" members and have been recertified twice since our initial award. In addition to the action steps required for certification, Sustainable Maryland's resources and technical assistance have enhanced our efforts to facilitate stakeholder engagement to ensure our programs and activities reflect equitable access to sustainable programming across all members of our diverse community. Moreover, we have increased peer-to-peer exchanges of ideas and the sharing of lessons learned.

Establishing a dedicated source of funding for Sustainable Maryland will increase the program's ability to provide technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Our capacity to continue our sustainability projects is of benefit not just to the residents of Gaithersburg but to all residents in the ever expanding and growing communities that surround us.

**For these reasons, the City of Gaithersburg urges a favorable report for HB 1520.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. You may also contact the Legislative Affairs Manager for the City of Gaithersburg, Jessica Kwasny. She can be reached at [jess.kwasny@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:jess.kwasny@gaithersburgmd.gov) or 301.805.1090.

Sincerely,  
Jud Ashman, Mayor

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<sup>1</sup> City of Gaithersburg. (2020) *Strategic Plan: An Overall Approach to Achieving the Vision of the City of Gaithersburg*. Retrieved from <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/home/showdocument?id=5532>.