



TOWN OF  
**Poolesville**  
MARYLAND

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February 14, 2020

The Honorable Senator Paul G. Pinsky  
Maryland State Senate  
Chairman Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Street, Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: MD SB0737/HB1520 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members,

The Town of Poolesville supports MD SB0737/HB 1520 and urge a “YES” vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Poolesville is part of a broad-based and diverse cross-section of over 76 municipalities across Maryland that have 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 nine years, SM has supported our Town’s efforts and those of other Maryland municipalities with a comprehensive suite of policies, resources, direct support, and incentives. This has assisted participating municipalities:

- Make progress across a broad range of sustainability goals
- Build a strong, active citizens networks committed to helping local governments in achieving each’s sustainability goals

The establishment of a SM Program Fund will:

- Codify this statewide sustainability effort
- Ensure local governments have the education, technical assistance, and financial resources necessary to improve quality of life

As a certified SM municipality, we have firsthand experience with the benefits of a dedicated and comprehensive technical assistance program. While other programs may offer specific environmental services, the SM program:

- Helps communicate and educate the importance of sustainability to our residents
- Organize our residents (Green Teams) to establish a plan of sustainability actions

- Provides technical assistance to more easily navigate state/local programs and take advantage of existing resources
- To pursue funding to implement sustainability efforts thereby improving our community
- To develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues

Supporting the SM Program Fund re-enforces the state's commitment to support the sustainability efforts of Maryland communities. This legislation would provide the needed resources for improving sustainability within our Maryland communities. Therefore, the State should take this opportunity to support the SM is program.

Sincerely,



Jerome J. Klobukowski  
President  
Commissioners of Poolesville