



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

8400 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 375 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGEPARKMD.GOV

February 18, 2020

MAYOR

Patrick L. Wojahn

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DISTRICT 4

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Denise Mitchell

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Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: SB 737 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Senator Pinsky and Committee Members:

The City of College Park Council voted unanimously to support SB 737, and on behalf of the Council and our residents, I respectfully request that you vote in favor of this important bill.

The City of College Park, a certified Sustainable Maryland community, has greatly benefitted from the technical assistance, education, and resources provided by the Sustainable Maryland (SM) program. Nearly 80 other communities throughout Maryland have also benefitted from this program. The 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.

For almost a decade SM has provided jurisdictions with a comprehensive suite of policies, resources, direct support, and incentives designed to help municipalities achieve 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. SB 737 will establish an SM Program Fund to help codify this statewide effort and ensure local governments have the education, technical assistance, and financial resources necessary to improve quality of life.

SM program has become a primary driver for building community capacity to engage in sustainability projects. It has provided training and information to communicate the importance of sustainability to residents and establish an action plan. SB 737 offers the opportunity to expand this high-performing program, and I urge you to support it.

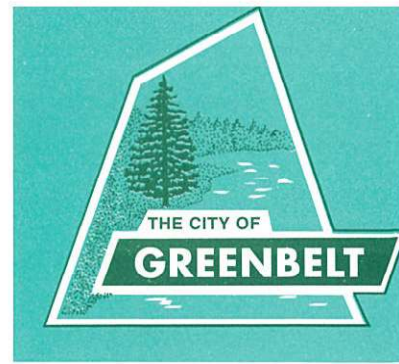
Sincerely,

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor

cc: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
21st District Delegation

CITY OF GREENBELT

25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD. 20770-1886



February 24, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

CITY COUNCIL

Colin A. Byrd, Mayor
Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor Pro Tem
Judith F. Davis
Leta M. Mach
Silke I. Pope
Edward V.J. Putens
Rodney M. Roberts

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

Dear Chair Pinsky & Committee Members:

Maryland's municipal communities stand united in support of the MD SB0737 / HB 1520 and urge a "YES" vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Our cities and towns represent a broad-based and diverse cross-section of over 76 communities from across our state 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 municipal governments across the state of Maryland 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 citizens 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.

As registered and certified municipalities of the SM program, 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 framework helps provide our elected officials, staff, and local Green Teams the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues and take advantage of resources already available.

Not only does SM enable us to more easily navigate other state and local programs, but it also helps us to organize our residents to take action. 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.

By supporting the SM Program Fund, you honor the state's commitment to support Maryland communities. The current legislation advocates for local governments and helps provide much needed

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resources for improving the civic infrastructure upon which our communities depend. 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.

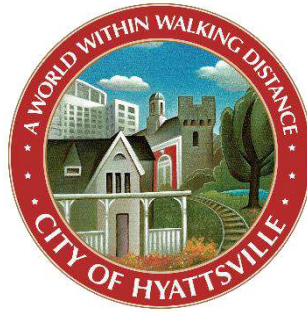
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin Byrd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colin A. Byrd
Mayor, City of Greenbelt

cc: City Council
Delegate Anne Healey
Delegate Alonzo Washington
Delegate Nicole Williams
Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager, Sustainable Maryland
Luisa Robles, Sustainability Coordinator
Nicole Ard, City Manager
David Moran, Assistant City Manager

Candace B. Hollingsworth
Mayor



Tracey E. Douglas
City Administrator

February 19, 2020

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

Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: MD SB0737 / HB1520 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Chairman McIntosh:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Hyattsville to state our support for Senate Bill 737 and House Bill 1520, for the establishment of the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

Our cities and towns represent a broad-based and diverse cross-section of over 76 communities from across our state 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 municipal governments across the state of Maryland 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 citizens 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.

As registered and certified municipalities of the SM program, 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 framework helps provide our elected officials, staff, and local Green Teams the education and technical

assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues and take advantage of resources already available.

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 of Maryland 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.

By supporting the SM Program Fund, you honor the state's commitment to support Maryland communities. The current legislation advocates for local governments and helps provide much needed resources for improving the civic infrastructure upon which our communities depend. 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.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and ask for your respective Committee's approval of Senate Bill 737 and House Bill 1520.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Hollingsworth", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Candace B. Hollingsworth
Mayor

cc: Maryland Delegation, District 22
Maryland Delegation, District 47A



TOWN OF COTTAGE CITY

3820 – 40th Avenue
Cottage City, Maryland 20722
(301) 779-2161 • Fax (301) 779-3525

February 17, 2020

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

Dear Delegates of the Education, Health and Environment Committee,

Maryland's municipal communities stand united in support of the MD SB0737 / HB 1520 and urge a "YES" vote on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund. Our cities and towns represent a broad-based and diverse cross-section of over 76 communities from across our state 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 municipal governments across the state of Maryland 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 citizens 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.

As registered and certified municipalities of the SM program, 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 framework helps provide our elected officials, staff, and local Green Teams the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues and take advantage of resources already available.

Not only does SM enable us to more easily navigate other state and local programs, but it also helps us to organize our residents to take action. 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.

By supporting the SM Program Fund, you honor the state's commitment to support Maryland communities. The current legislation advocates for local governments and helps provide much needed resources for improving the civic infrastructure upon which our communities depend. The State should



TOWN OF COTTAGE CITY

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Cottage City, Maryland 20722
(301) 779-2161 • Fax (301) 779-3525

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.

Sincerely,

Ann Marshall Young
Chair, Commission
Town of Cottage City, Maryland



City of Frostburg

W. Robert Flanigan
Mayor

Commissioners

Donald L. Carter, Jr.
*Commissioner of
Finance*

Kevin G. Grove
*Commissioner of
Public Safety*

Nina Forsythe
*Commissioner of
Water, Parks and
Recreation*

Adam Ritchey
*Commissioner of
Public Works*

Elizabeth Stahlman
City Administrator

February 21, 2020

Laura (L.J.) Bennett
Community Development Director, Green Team Member
City of Frostburg
59 E. Main Street
Frostburg, MD 21532

Re: Support for SB0737/HB1520 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Education, Health and Environment Committee,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, the City of Frostburg Green Team urges you to support SB0737/HB1520 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

As residents and Green Team members of the City of Frostburg we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. As a certified municipality our City has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for over 4 years. The City of Frostburg has benefitted from participating in the SM program in numerous ways. A Community Garden was constructed in a vacant lot with space for 16, 24 SF plots, a donated rain cube, and water hydrant. Frostburg's Green Team spearheaded a campaign to encourage citizens to responsibly dispose of pet waste, and educate the community on the human health and environmental consequences of proper disposal. Leadership training sponsored by the SM Program and attended by City Staff and Green Team members has led to an application for a Maryland Energy Administration grant for an electric police vehicle, leading the way for our very first EV in the City fleet. The SM Program has been instrumental in helping Frostburg develop its Green Team and identify potential sustainability projects. The reliability of SM staff in terms of technical assistance for sustainability projects and guidance throughout the program is exemplary. As a result, citizens are more deeply engaged with local elected officials and municipal projects where their volunteer time and expertise is appreciated. The SM framework is the model followed in Frostburg and has been crucial to the formation, development, and cohesiveness of the Green Team. The peer-to-peer network has added value to not only the work conducted in the Community Development Department, but also has added value and growth potential to the relationships with the citizenry in the private sector.

While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of resources already available. Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed to expand marketing to encourage buying local produce at the Farmer's Market, and supporting food preservation demonstrations. Support to develop a "CSO EDU" program to educate local University and High School students about the Consent Decree to eliminate the combined sewer overflows in our community, where current and future projects directly impact University

and High School adjacent areas, would lead to a greater understanding of how and why these projects are so important to our watersheds and our ability to sustain our valuable natural resources. Our local community takes great pride in the many natural resources we enjoy and is dedicated to developing initiatives to sustain solid stewardship of those resources.

Vote "Yes" on SB0737/HB1520 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in our city but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,



Laura (L.J.) Bennett
Community Development Director
Green Team Member
City of Frostburg

Brian Vought
Parks and Recreation Director
Green Team Member
City of Frostburg

Deirdre Robertson
Executive Director, Frostburg First
Green Team Member

Mr. Thomas M. Kozikowski
Environmental Science and
Physics Teacher
Green School Coordinator
Mountain Ridge High School
Community Member

Claire A. Raesly
Green Team Member
Mountain Ridge High School

Kevin Grove
Commissioner of Public Safety
Green Team Member
City of Frostburg