



Prince George's County Municipal Association

An Association Of 27 Municipalities



February 21, 2020

Maryland Senate
Education, Health and Environment Committee

Maryland House of Delegates
Appropriations Committee Members

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

Dear Senators and Delegates:

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) urges you to support SB0737/HB1520 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

As elected officials represented the 27 communities in Prince George's County our members have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. Twenty-five of our 27 communities are either a registered or certified municipality that has relied on the SM program to support their comprehensive sustainability efforts the SM program provides our municipalities a valuable toolbox of resources to seek sustainable solutions that improve our environment.

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 capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs that can be beneficial to our member communities. Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen the PGCMA member communities' efforts, ensuring that each member gets the support needed to develop, fund or implement ground level projects that are innovative solutions to improving the environment in the State of Maryland.

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 the PGCMA communities, but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,

Tracy R. Gant
President, Prince George's County Municipal Association
Mayor, Town of Edmonston