



February 26, 2020

Chairman Pinsky, Madame Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 737 Maryland Sustainable Program Fund – Establishment

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Madame Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, I am writing to convey our support for SB 737, 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.¹

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 SB 737

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 or 301.805.1090.

Sincerely,
Jud Ashman, Mayor

¹ 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>.