



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

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February 18, 2020

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Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: SB 737 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Senator Guzzone 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick L. Wojahn".

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor

cc: Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
21st District Delegation