

**Testimony by Mayor Duane Rosenberg, City of New Carrollton**  
**February 26, 2020**

**Favorable Testimony - SB0737**

Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about my support for SB 0737. On behalf of the residents of New Carrollton, a Certified Sustainable Maryland City since 2019, we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the program. New Carrollton established a Green Team in 2018 to gain community involvement with the City's environmental initiatives. Our Sustainable Maryland representative attended our earliest Green Team meetings to review the certification requirements of the sustainability program and the range of activities that move us toward sustainable goals.

Among many things, New Carrollton is in the process of upgrading vegetation throughout the community, transitioning toward a reduced carbon footprint through vehicles and building energy efficiencies, and restructuring storm water drainage in cooperation with the goals of improving the Anacostia Watershed. New Carrollton's over 12,000 residents benefit from our relationship with Sustainable Maryland. Additional community/Sustainable Maryland initiatives include promoting local food production and farmers' market outlets, developing health and wellness programs, reforestation efforts, and deploying a pet waste management program. We credit Sustainable Maryland for providing our elected officials, staff, and local Green Team 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 awareness of funding sources to improve our community. The SM program has become a primary driver behind our community's engagement in sustainability projects in New Carrollton along with efforts to network with like-minded communities throughout the state.

The contributions of the SM program to New Carrollton have led us to become a better-educated community regarding environmental issues. We credit the SM program for helping us establish environmentally-sustainable standards, and for being an ongoing resource to guide future environmental decisions.

On behalf of the City of New Carrollton, I register our support for SB 0737 which provides State funding for the Sustainable Maryland program. Thank you again for allowing me to be here today to express our support of this legislative initiative and to acknowledge the many contributions that the SM program has made to the City of New Carrollton..