



February 20, 2020

Chair Senator Paul Pinsky
Vice-Chair Senator Cheryl Kagan
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Dear Honorable Senators,

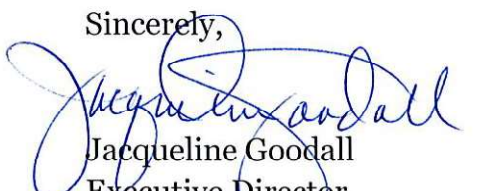
The 18 member mayors of the Maryland Black Mayors, Inc. strongly support the proposed Senate Bill 737 legislation to establish a non-lapsing fund to support the continuation of the Sustainable Maryland Program.

Since the unveiling of Sustainable Maryland at the Maryland Municipal Leagues Summer Convention in 2011, most of our member towns have benefitted from the assistance of Sustainable Maryland to help develop programs within in towns. The assistance has been vast in its outreach from the education of pollution of our waterways to helping to write energy grants, from the assistance to establish community engagement through Green Teams, to planting Community Gardens and forming Farmer's Markets and so much more.

The Sustainable Maryland program has helped our elected officials, staff and residents understand the intricacies of becoming a sustainable community and to reach the municipalities Maryland Sustainable goals. The staff of Sustainable Maryland over the years has worked with our towns to establish practices, projects and programs to work towards the goal of becoming sustainable – Environmentally, Economically and Socially.

As mayors, we greatly understand the need for funding to continue doing great works and strongly support the Senate Bill 737 for a non-lapsing fund for the Sustainable Maryland Program that has done so much for our communities at no cost.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Goodall
Executive Director
Maryland Black Mayors, Inc.