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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 100 – Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment

Appropriations Committee

January 25, 2022

SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 100 (HB100) would establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund. This nonlapsing fund would support the expansion and enhancement of the already existing Sustainable Maryland Program.

Written Comments: The Sustainable Maryland Program was established in 2011 to work with Maryland's municipalities and provide them with a dynamic range of tools to aid them in becoming more environmentally sustainable communities. Sustainable Maryland offers a menu of options, which can be tailored to the needs and priorities of each municipality. The premier tool available to municipalities is the certification program, allowing them to be recognized for their efforts to become a more green community. Currently 76 communities are registered with the Sustainable Maryland program, of which 38 are certified.

The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* teaches us to repair the world in which we live in. Establishing the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would be in direct accordance with *tikkun olam*. It would ensure the longevity of this program and allow it to expand its efforts to even more municipalities across Maryland. A more sustainable state is one from which everyone benefits.

The Baltimore Jewish Council and The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore are committed to repairing our world. We represent The Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD, a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices. We encourage this committee to join us in our mission to create Maryland that is healthier for everyone. With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of HB100.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.