

Committee: House Environment & Transportation
Testimony on: HB100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund-Establishment
Submitting: Karen Metchis
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: Jan. 25, 2022

I am writing in support of HB100, Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment which will provide non lapsing funds to expand and enhance Sustainable Maryland’s promotion and support of communities in Maryland in the effort to realize environmental, economic, and social sustainability; authorize the Fund to be used for training and education, outreach and engagement, and develop and expand the Sustainable Maryland program. Finally, it will require the Governor, for Fiscal Year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, to provide an appropriation of \$750,000 to the Fund.

Climate change is bringing more challenges to communities. More intense precipitation is causing homes and apartments to flood, imposing costs that are not typically covered by homeowner insurance, and leading to health risks, for example, from mold. Higher temperatures are a particular health risk to workers, pedestrians, children, the elderly, and everyone for that matter. Shifting seasonal patterns are stressing our environment as well as our water supplies.

The Sustainable Maryland Program, administered by the Environmental Finance Center, is a key element of helping citizens and communities build their resilience to climate change. The mandated appropriation in the annual State Budget Bill will continue to fund much needed training and projects. Hopefully, stable funding will also enable expansion of these programs to more residents, businesses, the volunteer community, and local governments to support sustainability efforts.

Thank you for your sponsorship and for voting in favor of HB100.

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