



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

7401 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 201 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGEPAKMD.GOV

January 18, 2022

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Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair and
Members of the Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the City Council and residents of College Park, I urge a “YES” vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. We have greatly benefited from the technical assistance, education, and resources provided by the Sustainable Maryland (SM) program. This 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.

Over the past 11 years, SM has supported municipal governments across the State by providing jurisdictions like ours with a comprehensive suite of policies, resources, direct support, and incentives designed to help municipalities make progress across 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. This bill to establish an SM Program Fund will help codify this statewide effort and ensure local governments have the education, technical assistance, and financial resources necessary to improve quality of life.

As a registered and certified municipality of the SM program, we have firsthand experience with the benefits of a dedicated and comprehensive technical assistance program. While other programs may offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, staff, and local Green Teams 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 ability to pursue funding to improve our community. The SM program has become a primary driver for building community capacity to engage in sustainability projects. By supporting this bill, the state will help to elevate and amplify these efforts. The SM Program Fund will help to replicate and scale Green Teams to other local



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jurisdictions and provide much needed funding to pursue new and innovative community-based projects.

The State should take this opportunity to expand and support this high-performing program in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pat. Wojahn".

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor