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Committee: Appropriations
Testimony on: HB 100 - Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment
Organization: Individual
Person Submitting: Lore Rosenthal
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: January 25, 2022

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh and members of the committee,

I am writing in favor of HB100 - **Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment**

This bill will –

- Ensure that Maryland Municipalities more easily understand and identify the full slate of state, county, and non-profit programs that local governments, businesses, and residents can tap into for support of their sustainability efforts.
- Enables the expansion and enhancement of voluntary community sustainability actions across Maryland, inclusive of a small grants program to incentivize action; and
- Helps communities implement their chosen actions with help from program tools, trainings, case studies, and other resources.

The City of Greenbelt participates in the Sustainable Maryland Certified program. We have a Green Team and have been certified three times, in 2015, 2017, and 2020.

Sustainable Maryland has been integral to the ever-increasing “greening” of our town. They provide valuable webinars and resources in many aspects of sustainability. They provide regional “summits”, where municipalities come together and compare notes on projects they are doing. The slightly “competitive” nature of the program motivates towns to do more and earn more points.

Mike Hunninghake and Brandy Espinola and their wonderful staff make this all possible. Having an ongoing fund each year, to continue the program allows the program to expand and include more and more municipalities.

For all these reasons, I recommend a favorable report on HB100.

Thanks,
Lore Rosenthal