



Prince George's County Municipal Association

An Association of 27 Municipalities



March 30, 2022

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

Re: SB 14 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Delegate McIntosh and members of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the Prince George's County Municipal Association and the 27 municipalities we represent, I write to urge a "YES" vote on SB 14, which would establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Nearly all Prince George's County municipalities have 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 municipalities like our members 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.

Our members 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.

For many of our communities, the Sustainable Maryland Certified 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 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 our position.

Sincerely,

Patrick Wojahn
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