



## **Environment Committee**

**Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs**

**Testimony on: SB0014 - Sustainable Maryland Program Fund- Establishment**

**Organization: Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee**

**Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: February 9, 2022**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

We are testifying today to urge you to vote favorably for SB0014. Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee is a grassroots organization focused on State and County level climate action. We support SB0014 because the City of Takoma Park is a certified Sustainable Maryland community with its own Sustainable Maryland Committee or “Green Team.” The City, first certified in 2014 and recertified in 2017, will benefit from the proposed Sustainable Maryland Program Fund for its sustainability work, including implementing a community garden, performing municipal energy audits, developing a municipal carbon footprint, passing a green purchasing policy, creating a watershed plan, and developing a stormwater management program.

Sustainable Maryland is a certification program for municipalities that want to go green, save money, and take action to sustain their community’s quality of life for the future. The bill will establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund, to help ensure that Maryland municipalities can identify the full suite of state, county, and non-profit programs that local governments, businesses, and residents can access to support their sustainability efforts. The Fund will be administered by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center and support activities such as: training and education to ensure communities are well informed on sustainability science, policy, and practice; outreach and engagement to build local capacity and institutionalize sustainability efforts; and annual small community innovation grants to help communities pilot new and innovative strategies.

This proposed Sustainable Maryland Program Fund will provide resources to incentivize participation and enhance the success of the Sustainable Maryland Program for currently certified communities.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.