

**MARYLAND BLACK
MAYORS INC.**
United We Stand.



February 4, 2022

Senator Paul G. Pinsky

Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

RE: SBO014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund Maryland Black Mayors, Inc., Maryland Black Mayors, Inc. Strongly Support SBO014

Dear Honorable Senators,

The 18 member mayors of the Maryland Black Mayors, Inc. strongly support the proposed SBO014 establishing a non-lapsing fund to support the continuation of the Sustainable Maryland Program.

Since the kick-off of the Sustainable Maryland Program at the Maryland Municipal Leagues Summer Convention in 2011, most of our member towns have benefitted from the assistance of Sustainable Maryland to help develop programs within our towns. The technical assistance that has been provided to our municipalities has been invaluable.

Sustainable Maryland's staff have helped our town's ability to improve our sustainability goals set forth in the Sustainable Communities Act of 2010 goals.

Our members have utilized the services of Sustainable Maryland for public outreach and engagement with our citizens, establishment of Green Teams, assistance in writing grants to agencies within Maryland i.e., Department of Energy (MEA), Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and foundations such as the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), as well as developing Stormwater plans for our communities and so much more.

The Sustainable Maryland program has helped our elected officials, staff and residents understand the intricacies of becoming a sustainable community and to reach the municipalities Maryland Sustainable goals. The staff of Sustainable Maryland over the years have worked with our towns to establish practices, projects, and programs to work towards the goal of becoming sustainable - Environmentally, Economically and Socially.

Without the assistance that the program offers, it is doubtful that many of our smaller communities would have come as far as we have in moving towards sustainability. In addition, the work that the Sustainable Maryland Program does for the towns are a no cost. As mayors, we understand the need for funding to continue doing great works and strongly support the Senate Bill 0014 for a non-lapsing fund for the Sustainable Maryland Program.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Goodall

Member, Maryland Black Mayors, Inc.
Former Mayor, Town of Forest Heights