



Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
Testimony on: SB0014 - Sustainable Maryland Program Fund- Establishment
Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 9, 2022

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0014. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB0014.

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.

Currently, there are 85 participating and 40 certified municipalities. Since 2011, Sustainable Maryland has created and trained more than 50 green teams and certified 16 municipal stormwater management programs, among other achievements. This proposed Sustainable Maryland Program Fund will provide resources to incentivize participation and enhance the success of the Sustainable Maryland Program.

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