

Mayor Amanda Dewey Sustainable Maryland Testimony.

Uploaded by: Amanda Dewey

Position: FAV

Favorable Testimony -- SB0014

Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Chair Paul Pinsky, Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB0014, which establishes the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

The Town of Berwyn Heights has worked with the Environmental Finance Center's Sustainable Maryland (SM) program since before the town was first certified in 2014. We have since been re-certified twice. As a small town, the Sustainable Maryland program has been invaluable in building our capacity to tackle important environmental challenges and create a healthy and sustainable community for our residents.

We've gained great value from the opportunity to network and learn from other municipalities through the program. Berwyn Heights staff members and Green Team members have attended many Sustainable Maryland education and outreach events that have allowed us to learn from, share with, and connect to other municipalities across the state on topics like stormwater issues and creating pollinator corridors. As a result, we've been able to pursue initiatives that we couldn't have accomplished on our own.

SM has also provided support for specific projects in Berwyn Heights. SM allowed us to install 10 pet waste stations and educational materials in our community. This semester we are working with an SM student project assistant to complete a municipal carbon footprint. Through our three rounds of certification, we have undertaken many projects that have improved quality of life and have received support from SM every step of the way.

We would greatly appreciate SM's support in using upcoming federal and state funding opportunities to advance our sustainability goals. We are also working to take an equitable approach to environmental action and would appreciate support from SM in making sure all parts of our community receive the benefits of sustainability efforts.

The SM program achieves significant public environmental benefits in a cost-effective way by connecting communities with resources and with each other to incentivize strong environmental action. I urge you to create the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund to address the significant environmental challenges we face across the state. This funding will enable Sustainable Maryland to continue working with small towns like Berwyn Heights and provide important sustainability training and resources to more Maryland communities across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda M. Dewey', written in a cursive style.

Amanda M. Dewey

Mayor, Town of Berwyn Heights

SB 14_FAV_MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 9, 2022

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Bill: SB 14 – Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 14, which would establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund to expand and enhance Sustainable Maryland's promotion and support of communities in the State to realize environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

For over 10 years, the Sustainable Maryland program has been helping Maryland cities and towns reach their sustainability goals through training, resource identification, and a wildly popular certification program that incentivizes reaching those goals. 85 municipalities participate in the program, stretching from Garrett County to Worcester County, and that number increases every single year. As the association representing the state's 157 incorporated cities and towns, the Maryland Municipal League understands how critical Sustainable Maryland's support of these efforts is to the ongoing environmental protection, community health, and economic development efforts emanating from communities throughout the state.

SB 14 provides the financial stability to allow for the ongoing viability and growth of this critical program. As such, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 14 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock	Executive Director
Angelica Bailey	Director, Government Relations
Bill Jorch	Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | www.mdmunicipal.org

SB 14 - Sustainable Maryland (Favorable - The Natu

Uploaded by: Cait Kerr

Position: FAV

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TO: Paul Pinsky, Chair of Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee; and Committee Members

FROM: Michelle Dietz, The Nature Conservancy, Director of Government Relations; and Caitlin Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation & Climate Policy Analyst

POSITION: Support SB 14 – Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 14 offered by Senator Elfreth. TNC is a global conservation organization working to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. In Maryland, our work focuses on delivering science-based, on-the-ground solutions that secure clean water and healthy living environments for our communities, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience in the face of a changing climate. We are dedicated to a future where people and nature thrive together.

SB 14 seeks to establish the Sustainable Maryland (SM) Program Fund. SM is a free and voluntary outreach and certification program that was first established in 2011 to help Maryland communities pursue a sustainable future. Over the past decade, SM has provided communities with a unique framework with which to benchmark local sustainability initiatives, as well as a comprehensive suite of policies, resources, direct support, and incentives designed to help communities advance a broad range of sustainability goals. The program has certified 16 municipal stormwater management programs, assisted 30 communities in creating watershed stewardship programs, developed municipal carbon footprints for 10 communities to establish greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets and goals, and continues to support local WIPs in improving water quality. Impressively, to date the program has been entirely self-funded and has been offered to communities across the state at no cost; however, the program needs state funding support in order to rise up to meet the growing demands and challenges of climate impacts.

Maryland has set ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. As we work to achieve these goals, we need to increase investment in our local communities to implement new strategies that will address emerging problems. We also face challenging water quality issues in the Chesapeake Bay, which Maryland has already invested significant work and resources into tackling. But we can't stop there; local governments need additional support and investment to protect neighborhoods, infrastructure, and resources on the frontlines of climate change.

While SM has successfully managed an ambitious program that has demonstrated leadership over the years, the program's biggest challenge has been insufficient funding. By investing in the SM Program, state leadership can recognize local governments' necessity in building a sustainable future and communities in Maryland can continue to advance environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

TNC commends Senator Elfreth for introducing this bill, which recognizes the importance of investing in sustainability and empowering local governments and communities to combat climate change.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on SB 14.

SB0014_Sustainable_MD_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0014
SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND PROGRAM FUND - ESTABLISHMENT**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Elfreth

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0014 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill will create the Sustainable Maryland Program, which will be able to expand and enhance voluntary community sustainability actions across Maryland. It will help Municipalities understand all of the state, county and other non-profit programs that can help local businesses and residents with sustainability efforts. It will also help communities implement their sustainability goals by providing tools, training, case studies and other resources.

We need more green teams in Maryland and more volunteers engaged in positive environmental change. Stormwater management programs and other sustainability efforts will become crucial as climate change destabilizes our world.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

Mayor Day SB 14 FAV Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Day

Position: FAV



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

9 February 2022

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: SB 14 - Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Position: Favorable

Re: Support for SB 14 - Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Members of Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

As you consider the merits of **SB 14**, I ask that you **support** this vital legislation and vote to give **SB 14** a **Favorable** Committee report.

As a Sustainable Maryland Certified city, Salisbury continues to partner with Sustainable Maryland to become an even more excellent steward of our environment and natural resources. As the Capital of the Eastern Shore, residents of our city have first-hand experience in contending with the effects of climate change. Whether faced with soil erosion in our tidal areas or the heavy flooding that has become synonymous with major storms, although we remain versatile, we must take meaningful action as we continue to adapt to the effects of chronic climate change.

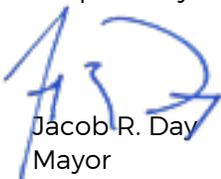
By establishing a Sustainable Maryland Fund, Salisbury and other Sustainable Maryland Certified cities across Maryland will stand to benefit from training and educational opportunities as we continue to usher in advances in sustainability science, policy, and practice while engaging directly with citizens.

Here in Salisbury, we continue to respond to real issues through the transformative work of our Green Team, whose members work to develop projects and policies that promote sustainability throughout Salisbury and the Lower Eastern Shore.

As a member of the Sustainable Maryland Executive Committee, I am proud to lend my voice in support of this legislation that will stand to benefit Marylanders both in Salisbury and from every corner of our great state while positioning Maryland as a leader in the movement to effect change and pursue meaningful climate action.

I ask for your support of this legislation and request that you pass **SB 14** out of Committee with a **FAVORABLE** report

Respectfully,



Jacob R. Day
Mayor

Jackie Goodall MD Black Mayors Sustainable Maryland

Uploaded by: Jacqueline Goodall

Position: FAV

**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

EFC UMD Jen Cotting Testimony Sustainable Maryland

Uploaded by: Jennifer Cotting

Position: FAV



ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER



Favorable Testimony – SB 0014

Dear Chair Paul Pinsky, Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share the impact that the Sustainable Maryland program has made on Maryland's communities, as well as the importance of codifying this high performing program through SB 0014 – Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment.

As you know, local governments have many competing priorities, which are often at odds with the scale of resources and capacity available to invest in those needs. While Maryland municipalities are increasingly taking the lead in addressing local sustainability goals, challenges such as inadequate training, a lack of a clear direction, insufficient funding, and limited capacity are still common.

The Environmental Finance Center's Sustainable Maryland (SM) program works to fill these gaps. SM is a nonpartisan, free and voluntary outreach and certification program that supports Maryland's 157 municipalities in choosing a direction for their greening efforts; completing their chosen actions with help from program tools, trainings, case studies, and other resources; and, being recognized statewide for their accomplishments. The SM program provides a cohesive, tailored, and replicable process for community-based action that fosters a pipeline for continued engagement between residents and municipal governments.

Local Impact

Since the launch of the program in 2011, SM has:

- Registered 85 municipalities and certified 42, representing 54% and 27% of the state's cities and towns respectively.
- Engaged over 27% of Maryland communities with population under 1,000.
- Mobilized and trained more than 70 Green Teams in municipalities across the state, from Garrett County to Ocean City.
- Developed local leadership by providing training and education opportunities that have collectively engaged more than 1,500 elected officials, local government staff, and community members across the state.
- Certified and cataloged over 1,000 individual sustainability actions taken by SM- Certified communities.
- Assisted 19 communities with implementing watershed stewardship programming for residents.

Benefits to the State

The SM program coordinates and promotes state environmental goals and serves as a cost-effective partner to engage local communities to advance statewide initiatives. For many Maryland municipalities, the SM program serves as both a clearinghouse for state and regional environmental initiatives, as well as a single point of contact for any sustainability-related issues they may come across.

The SM program:

- Streamlines state initiatives, such as the MEA Maryland Smart Energy Communities, DHCD Keep Maryland Beautiful, and DNR Coast Smart, into one comprehensive SM Action Menu as a means of reducing the outreach redundancies that often burden local governments.
- Leverages existing relationships in SM network to cost-effectively increase participation in sustainability initiatives and promote faster adoption of policies.

- Partners with state agencies and other subject matter experts to help achieve statewide sustainability goals by building out sustainability initiatives through the SM Action Menu, leadership trainings, peer-to-peer learning, and on-going technical assistance.

Current Funding Needs

Currently, the SM program is severely underfunded. While the program started ten years ago with seed funding from the Town Creek Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency, early funds were intended to establish initial proof of concept and demonstrate statewide impact. At this point, Sustainable Maryland has most certainly done this, but without direct investment from the State, not only will the opportunity to leverage existing momentum and expand programmatic offerings go unrealized, even the most basic development and maintenance of the core program functions will remain unsupported. Establishing the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would be transformative -- for the Sustainable Maryland program itself, for the communities that heavily rely on the technical assistance program to achieve their local goals, and for the advancement of State goals, priorities and programs.

SB 0014 would provide core funding for staff to:

- Coordinate with state agencies in the development of community-based policy solutions
- Direct a community-based small grants program for the implementation of local projects
- Grow the SM network to additional communities across the state
- Offer a robust suite of training and peer-network learning opportunities
- Increase recognition for the participating communities
- Expand and enhance the SM Action Menu and certification program
- Develop the next generation of sustainability leaders

Without State funding, small rural towns such as Burkittsville, will not have access to ongoing technical assistance to develop their own capacity for addressing community challenges. Without State funding, residential Green Teams along Prince George's County's Route 1 corridor will not have a network convener to facilitate regional solutions. Without State funding, the majority of local governments in Maryland will no longer have the support of a proven framework to prioritize community goals towards local action.

The Environmental Finance Center's Sustainable Maryland program is a highly-effective and trusted initiative serving a unique role throughout the state. While there are other state and local nonprofits that may offer similar services on specific aspects of sustainability, the SM program is the only comprehensive, locally-focused statewide sustainability program. And SM is the only statewide effort organizing Green Teams at the local level. These advisory bodies harness both the personal passions of residents, as well as the vast array of professional expertise, and bring it to bear for the benefit of their communities. After ten years of launching new Green Teams, organizing peer leadership networking events, and facilitating the replication of innovative projects and programs across the state, it is clear that Sustainable Maryland has demonstrated the value and effectiveness of the program.

We hope you will take this opportunity to support the expansion of this cost-effective, trusted, and beneficial program so that it can continue to provide technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage the attainment of local sustainability priorities throughout the State.



Jennifer Cotting, Environmental Finance Center Director

SB14_MDSierraClub_fav - 9Feb2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Josh Tulkin

Position: FAV



P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Appropriations

Testimony on: SB 14 - “Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 9, 2022

The Maryland Sierra Club encourages the Committee’s support of SB 14, which would establish ongoing funding for the Sustainable Maryland Program. The Program is delivered by the University of Maryland and supports efforts by Maryland communities to implement sustainable practices. These sustainable practices span a wide range of areas including community-based planning, food consumption and production, energy use, greenhouse gas management, health, and local economies. The program provides a voluntary certification to communities that undertake certain levels of these activities.

The Sustainable Maryland Program helps communities access best practices in a wide range of areas. With the level of funding provided by SB 14, the Program would also be able to provide some grant funding to assist communities in adopting these practices. The Program also holds considerable potential for connecting communities with experts and other resources within the University of Maryland.

The bill would direct that the Governor’s budget provide new ongoing funding of \$750,000 per year, beginning in fiscal year 2024, for the Program. The voluntary certification program offered by Sustainable Maryland appears to be a cost-effective way of helping communities to make meaningful improvements that benefit their residents and the broader environment. As the Committee considers this bill, we would suggest it consider adding a requirement that the program produce and make public on its website an annual report of its activities, including the grants and technical assistance provided, and its budget, including supporting funds from other sources. In addition, the Committee may wish to revisit or sunset the funding provided every four or five years to help support equity and efficacy in operations.

In summary, this bill provides new ongoing funding for a meritorious activity that has the potential for meaningfully assisting residents across Maryland by helping to support and catalyze their local communities. We urge this committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Randy Lyon
Legislative Chair
Randy.Lyon@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

Ashman Testimony- SB0014- Sustainable Maryland Pro

Uploaded by: Jud Ashman

Position: FAV



January 31, 2022

Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland State Senate
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401 – 1991

Favorable Testimony -- SB0014- Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Chair Paul Pinsky, Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB0014, which establishes the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

The Sustainable Maryland (SM) program has been integral to the City of Gaithersburg's sustainability efforts, with its initial certification designation awarded in 2013, and then again in 2016 and 2019. The in-depth certification review process not only provides recognition for actions being taken, but the ongoing technical assistance, resources, and connection to a peer network also inspires the adoption of new best practices and innovative sustainability solutions.

Most recently, SM partnered with Gaithersburg staff to develop and pilot a Residential Action Framework to increase both awareness and participation in watershed stewardship and sustainability activities in homeowners and condominium associations (HOAs/CAs). The SM pilot launched in 2020 has engaged the leadership and residents of 8 HOAs/CAs within the City of Gaithersburg in the creation of Residential Green Teams and the identification of community-based sustainability and watershed protection activities that could be led by HOAs/CAs. In April 2022, SM will host the second Gaithersburg Sustainability Summit for Homeowners and Civic Associations, and a dozen associations have already expressed interest in joining the program for the 6 slots available for the 2022 cohort. As Sustainable Maryland continues to improve its methods for reaching out, finding champions, and recruiting a critical mass of interested residents, more HOAs/CAs are interested in participating, and we see the potential of leveraging this proven framework for enhancing community participation on a number of sustainability-related issues.

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MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Jim McNulty
Ryan Spiegel
Robert T. Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

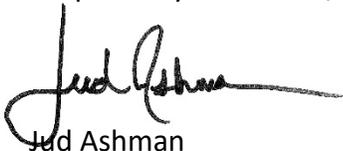
The Sustainable Maryland Certification program affords the City of Gaithersburg with a unique and critical opportunity to benchmark our work on environmental initiatives. It also provides our staff with important information and added motivation to consider new and innovative programs to further our sustainability objectives. Throughout the pandemic, Sustainable Maryland hosted virtual events that brought people together, across jurisdiction boundaries, to share ideas, discuss roadblocks, and provide information to increase the efficiency of small sustainability offices. In these forums, City staff shared information about Gaithersburg's pesticide program and environmental awards programs, while also learning about opportunities to advance our pollinator protection initiative, which resulted in several pollinator friendly gardens being created around the City. Our ecosystem doesn't recognize jurisdictional boundaries, and this connection and networking system has proven critical to advancing our sustainability work, in Gaithersburg and throughout Maryland.

It is with the ongoing support of the SM program and their focus on local efforts that we have been able to strengthen the pathway towards a more Sustainable Gaithersburg. Given the Program's demonstrated success and impact, and the significant environmental challenges facing every community in Maryland, I urge you to support the creation of the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

This funding will enable Sustainable Maryland to expand its reach and provide important sustainability training and resources to more Maryland communities. It has been and will continue to be a cost-effective program to achieve significant public environmental benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jud Ashman", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jud Ashman
Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

SB0014- Sustainable Maryland Program Fund -EHEA-CJ

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



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.

SB0014- Sustainable Maryland Program Fund -EHEA-TP

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



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.

SB14 - FAV - Sustainable MD - EHEA.pdf

Uploaded by: Lore Rosenthal

Position: FAV

Lore Lyon Rosenthal
2 Gardenway, Unit R
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2234 (landline)
SimplicityGroupsMD@gmail.com

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (EHEA)
Testimony on: SB14 - Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment
Organization: Individual
Person Submitting: Lore Rosenthal
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 9, 2022

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the committee,

I am writing in favor of **SB14 - 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 SB14.

Thanks,
Lore Rosenthal

EFC UMD Mike Hunninghake Sustainable Maryland Test

Uploaded by: Mike Hunninghake

Position: FAV



ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER



Favorable Testimony – SB 0014

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

We are living in unprecedented times, with an intersection of global crisis having an impact on our local communities. From the climate emergency to the global pandemic, to growing economic instability and ever present social and racial inequalities, the frontline dealing with these issues are our local governments.

To respond to these multiple crises, governments at all levels need to act and adapt. While many Maryland municipalities have already started actively taking measures to address some of these challenges (e.g., formally declaring a climate emergency, developing buy local campaigns, adopting equity committees, etc.), they often face barriers such as inadequate training, a lack of a clear direction, insufficient funding, and limited capacity that stifle action. The Environmental Finance Center's Sustainable Maryland (SM) program works to address these barriers to action and to build local capacity so that communities can thrive.

For the past ten years, the SM program has provided a cohesive, tailored, and replicable process for community-based action that fosters a pipeline for continued engagement between residents and local governments. The program has helped 54 percent of municipalities in choosing a direction for their sustainability efforts and has designated 27 percent of Maryland municipalities as "Sustainable Maryland Certified" for their outstanding accomplishments. In the past three years, this proven framework has also been piloted with residential associations, launching projects in over 20 homeowners and civic associations.

This trusted community resource, that serves as a network for quickly disseminating information to a body of engaged residents, engaging local leadership in addressing multiple challenges, and building connectivity and community across the state, helps to inspire, motivate, and mobilize action. HB 0014 – Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment will expand and enhance this cost-effective program so that communities across the state can have the needed support to deepen their commitments to sustainability and take action to address the many interconnected crises of today.

After ten years of launching new Green Teams, organizing peer leadership networking events, and facilitating the replication of innovative projects and programs across the state, it is clear that Sustainable Maryland has demonstrated the value and effectiveness of the program. The SM program stands ready to assist the State as they take the necessary actions to address the most urgent issues of our lifetimes. We urge you to support the SM program, which empowers local governments and communities throughout the state to attain sustainability goals and back up the State's commitments with adequate funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Hunninghake".

Mike Hunninghake
Program Manager
Sustainable Maryland

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0014.pdf

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 09, 2022

SB 14

Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch) dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 14 establishes the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund as a special, non-lapsing fund to expand and enhance Sustainable Maryland's promotion and support of communities in Maryland in the effort to realize environmental, economic, and social sustainability; authorizing the Fund to be used for training and education, outreach and engagement, and developing and expanding the Sustainable Maryland program; requiring the Governor, for Fiscal Year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, to provide an appropriation of \$750,000 to the Fund.

In his encyclical, *On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si')*, Pope Francis tells us, *“Whenever these questions are raised, some react by accusing others of irrationally attempting to stand in the way of progress and human development. But we need to grow in the conviction that a decrease in the pace of production and consumption can at times give rise to another form of progress and development. Efforts to promote a sustainable use of natural resources are not a waste of money, but rather an investment capable of providing other economic benefits in the medium term... We know how unsustainable is the behavior of those who constantly consume and destroy, while others are not yet able to live in a way worthy of their human dignity. Senate Bill 14 aims to address some of the needed reform policies and standards to be set to sustain and achieve a healthy global ecosystem.*

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 14.

MD Sustain SENATE BLLMaryland Program Fund.pdf

Uploaded by: nanci Wilkinson

Position: FAV

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Testimony on: SB 0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund-Establishment

Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Submitting: Nanci Wilkinson, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 9, 2022

The Environmental Justice Ministry of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church supports SB 0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment which will provide non-lapsing funds to expand and enhance Sustainable Maryland’s promotion and support of communities in Maryland in the effort to realize environmental, economic, and social sustainability; authorize the Fund to be used for training and education, outreach and engagement, and develop and expand the Sustainable Maryland program. Finally, it will require the Governor, for Fiscal Year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, to provide an appropriation of \$750,000 to the Fund.

As part of a faith community the Environmental Justice Ministry holds the interdependence of man and nature as a corps belief. The Climate crisis has endangered more lives through extreme weather events. This bill will provide continued funding for communities facing huge stormwater devastation during the continuing stronger storms and flooding events. A flooding event caused the death of a person in Montgomery County in an apartment building basement recently. Further, the bill will ensure more stormwater protections for the Chesapeake Bay and help insure cleaner water throughout the state of Maryland. The mandated appropriation in the annual State Budget Bill will continue to fund much needed training and projects.

A look at the history and the future of this program since 2011 shows the Program has:

- Created and trained more than 50 green teams in MD
- Certified 16 municipal stormwater management programs, supporting local WIP implementation and the targeting of investments to the basins with the greatest potential for meaningful water quality improvements

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.

- Enable the expansion and enhancement of voluntary community sustainability actions across Maryland, inclusive of a small grants program to incentivize action; and
- Help communities implement their chosen actions with help from program tools, trainings, case studies, and other resources.

Please support and enact SB 0014 for all of the above reasons.

Nanci Wilkinson
Environmental Justice Ministry Team
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

SB0014-FAV-DTMG-2-9-22.pdf

Uploaded by: Olivia Bartlett

Position: FAV



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood

Committee: Education, Health and Environmental

Testimony on: SB0014 – Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 9, 2022

Bill Contact: Senator Sarah Elfreth

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 3000 members across all districts in Montgomery County as well as a number of nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep its members healthy and safe in a clean environment and which promote equity across all our diverse communities. DTMG strongly supports SB0014 because it will provide a stable base of funding for the Sustainable Maryland (SM) Program, which helps municipalities across the state develop comprehensive sustainable community programs. Enhancing sustainability is crucial to adapting to climate change due to global warming.

SM is a certification program for municipalities in Maryland that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. SM is a collaborative effort between the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland and the Maryland Municipal League. SM provides grants, incentives, technical support in the form of trainings, access to support organizations, and guidance material. The SM program framework helps provide elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members across Maryland with the education and technical assistance needed to develop their own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and to navigate other state and local programs so that they can take advantage of resources already available.

A growing number of communities throughout the state are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability. Establishing a stable, yearly Sustainable Maryland Program Fund as proposed in SB0014 will strengthen local efforts, ensuring that local groups can get the support they need to communicate the importance of sustainability to local elected officials and community members, fund on-the-ground projects, and learn about innovative solutions to local problems. Stable funding will also help coordinate local efforts and provide an incentive for more communities to take action. SB0014 will therefore help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects across Maryland.

Stormwater management is an emphasis in SB0014. Stormwater management programs and other sustainability efforts will become crucial as climate change destabilizes our world. Many municipalities got money from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), and one of the

allowable uses is stormwater management. Therefore, it will be particularly helpful to have Sustainable Maryland certified to support municipalities in developing stormwater projects that qualify for ARPA.

We need more green teams in Maryland and more volunteers engaged in positive environmental change. Therefore, DTMG strongly supports SB0014 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
Co-Lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599

SB14_ESLC Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Ramotnik

Position: FAV

114 S. Washington St.,
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Easton, MD 21601
410-690-4603
FAX 410-690-4604
www.eslc.org



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SB0014: Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 3, 2022

Owen Bailey, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Favorable

Dear Senators of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy would like to express its support of the MD SB0014 and urge a "YES" vote on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund. Many of our small towns on the Eastern Shore 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 ten years, SM has supported municipal governments across the state of Maryland by providing jurisdictions 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 our communities build a strong network of active citizens committed to expanding the capacity of local governments and improving local-level sustainability throughout the state. This is incredibly important given the limited staff and resources of most small towns. 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.

As a local community non-profit operating in the upper six counties of the Eastern Shore that is home to several certified municipalities of the SM program, we have seen firsthand the benefits of a dedicated and comprehensive technical assistance program. While other programs may offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide elected officials, staff, and local Green Teams the education and technical assistance needed to develop their capacity to manage local sustainability issues and take advantage of resources already available.

Not only does SM help to enable our communities to easily navigate other state and local programs, but it also helps them to organize their residents to take action. Through the SM program our small towns have received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to their residents, established a plan for



taking action, and increased our overall ability to pursue funding to improve our communities. The SM 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 innovative community-based projects.

By supporting the SM Program Fund, you honor the state's commitment to support Maryland communities. The current legislation advocates for local governments and helps provide much needed resources for improving the civic infrastructure upon which our communities depend. 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.

We urge a favorable report on SB0014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Owen Bailey", enclosed within a large, loopy oval scribble.

Owen Bailey

Towns Program Manager

SB-0014_SupportingDocumentation_opt.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Elfreth

Position: FAV

Support for MD SB 0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund- Establishment

I. Testimony

- Emmett Jordan, Mayor, City of Greenbelt
- Jackie Goodall, Member, Maryland Black Mayors, Inc.
- Jacob Day, Mayor, City of Salisbury
- Jud Ashman, Mayor, City of Gaithersburg
- Mike Hunninghake, Program Director, Sustainable Maryland

II. Letters of Support

- Sustainable Maryland Mayors Joint Letter of Support
- Sustainable Maryland Municipalities and Green Teams
 - City of College Park
 - City of Frostburg
 - City of Greenbelt
 - City of Havre de Grace
 - City of Mount Rainier
 - City of Salisbury
 - Town of Barnesville
 - Town of Bel Air
 - Town of Berwyn Heights
 - Town of Boonsboro
 - Town of Edmonston
 - Town of Emmitsburg
 - Town of Glen Echo
 - Town of Goldsboro
 - Town of Keedysville
 - Town of Riverdale Park
 - Town of Thurmont
- Homeowners Associations and Civic Associations
 - Audubon Square Homeowners Association
 - Diamond Farm Homeowners Association
 - Fox Chase I Homeowners Association
 - Riverdale RRC Civic Association
 - Timberbrook Condominium
- Institutions and Organizations
 - Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
 - Maryland Forestry Foundation
 - Prince George's County Audubon Society
 - Sustainable States Network
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation

III. Additional Supporting Documentation

- Sustainable Maryland Flyer
- Map of Participating Sustainable Maryland Communities
- Sustainable Maryland Overview
- Maryland Municipal League Magazines Featuring Sustainable Maryland Communities

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD 20770



CITY COUNCIL

Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor
Kristen L.K. Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem
Colin A. Byrd
Judith F. Davis
B. Ric Gordon
Silke I. Pope
Rodney M. Roberts

February 4, 2022

Favorable Testimony -- SB0014

Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Chair Paul Pinsky, Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan, and
Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB0014, which establishes the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

The Sustainable Maryland (SM) program has been integral to the City of Greenbelt's sustainability efforts, with its initial certification designation awarded in 2014, and then again in 2017 and 2020. The in-depth certification review process not only provides recognition for actions being taken, but the ongoing technical assistance, resources, and connection to a peer network also inspires the adoption of new best practices and innovative sustainability solutions.

- Our affiliation with the Environmental Finance Center's Sustainable Maryland (SM) program has enhanced our ability to adopt and implement cost-effective strategies that have resulted in significant public environmental benefits for Greenbelt.

For example, SM has assisted Greenbelt in structuring and institutionalizing a number of our "green" programs. They provided us with best practice examples for written policies on green cleaning, green purchasing, lowering greenhouse gases, and electric vehicle fleet deployment.

- By convening multiple municipalities around the Prince George's County Route 1 Corridor to address topics like stormwater and flooding, or creating a "pollinator corridor," they have helped us to align our efforts around climate change mitigation and resilience with our neighboring jurisdictions.

It is with the ongoing support of the SM program and their focus on local efforts that we have been able to strengthen the pathway towards a more Sustainable Greenbelt. Given the Program's demonstrated success and impact, and the significant environmental challenges facing every community in Maryland, I urge you to support the creation of the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

This funding will enable Sustainable Maryland to expand its reach and provide important sustainability training and resources to more Maryland communities. It has been and will continue to be a cost-effective program to achieve significant public environmental benefits.

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

PHONE: (301) 474-8000 www.greenbeltmd.gov

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emmett V. Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "E".

Emmett Jordan, Mayor
City of Greenbelt

cc: City Council

**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



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

9 February 2022

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: SB 14 - Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Position: Favorable

Re: Support for SB 14 - Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Members of Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

As you consider the merits of **SB 14**, I ask that you **support** this vital legislation and vote to give **SB 14** a **Favorable** Committee report.

As a Sustainable Maryland Certified city, Salisbury continues to partner with Sustainable Maryland to become an even more excellent steward of our environment and natural resources. As the Capital of the Eastern Shore, residents of our city have first-hand experience in contending with the effects of climate change. Whether faced with soil erosion in our tidal areas or the heavy flooding that has become synonymous with major storms, although we remain versatile, we must take meaningful action as we continue to adapt to the effects of chronic climate change.

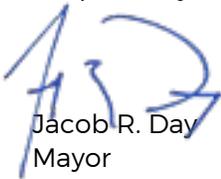
By establishing a Sustainable Maryland Fund, Salisbury and other Sustainable Maryland Certified cities across Maryland will stand to benefit from training and educational opportunities as we continue to usher in advances in sustainability science, policy, and practice while engaging directly with citizens.

Here in Salisbury, we continue to respond to real issues through the transformative work of our Green Team, whose members work to develop projects and policies that promote sustainability throughout Salisbury and the Lower Eastern Shore.

As a member of the Sustainable Maryland Executive Committee, I am proud to lend my voice in support of this legislation that will stand to benefit Marylanders both in Salisbury and from every corner of our great state while positioning Maryland as a leader in the movement to effect change and pursue meaningful climate action.

I ask for your support of this legislation and request that you pass **SB 14** out of Committee with a **FAVORABLE** report

Respectfully,



Jacob R. Day
Mayor



January 31, 2022

Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland State Senate
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401 – 1991

Favorable Testimony -- SB0014- Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Chair Paul Pinsky, Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB0014, which establishes the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

The Sustainable Maryland (SM) program has been integral to the City of Gaithersburg's sustainability efforts, with its initial certification designation awarded in 2013, and then again in 2016 and 2019. The in-depth certification review process not only provides recognition for actions being taken, but the ongoing technical assistance, resources, and connection to a peer network also inspires the adoption of new best practices and innovative sustainability solutions.

Most recently, SM partnered with Gaithersburg staff to develop and pilot a Residential Action Framework to increase both awareness and participation in watershed stewardship and sustainability activities in homeowners and condominium associations (HOAs/CAs). The SM pilot launched in 2020 has engaged the leadership and residents of 8 HOAs/CAs within the City of Gaithersburg in the creation of Residential Green Teams and the identification of community-based sustainability and watershed protection activities that could be led by HOAs/CAs. In April 2022, SM will host the second Gaithersburg Sustainability Summit for Homeowners and Civic Associations, and a dozen associations have already expressed interest in joining the program for the 6 slots available for the 2022 cohort. As Sustainable Maryland continues to improve its methods for reaching out, finding champions, and recruiting a critical mass of interested residents, more HOAs/CAs are interested in participating, and we see the potential of leveraging this proven framework for enhancing community participation on a number of sustainability-related issues.

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2038
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MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Jim McNulty
Ryan Spiegel
Robert T. Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

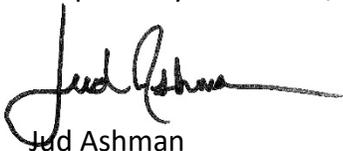
The Sustainable Maryland Certification program affords the City of Gaithersburg with a unique and critical opportunity to benchmark our work on environmental initiatives. It also provides our staff with important information and added motivation to consider new and innovative programs to further our sustainability objectives. Throughout the pandemic, Sustainable Maryland hosted virtual events that brought people together, across jurisdiction boundaries, to share ideas, discuss roadblocks, and provide information to increase the efficiency of small sustainability offices. In these forums, City staff shared information about Gaithersburg's pesticide program and environmental awards programs, while also learning about opportunities to advance our pollinator protection initiative, which resulted in several pollinator friendly gardens being created around the City. Our ecosystem doesn't recognize jurisdictional boundaries, and this connection and networking system has proven critical to advancing our sustainability work, in Gaithersburg and throughout Maryland.

It is with the ongoing support of the SM program and their focus on local efforts that we have been able to strengthen the pathway towards a more Sustainable Gaithersburg. Given the Program's demonstrated success and impact, and the significant environmental challenges facing every community in Maryland, I urge you to support the creation of the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

This funding will enable Sustainable Maryland to expand its reach and provide important sustainability training and resources to more Maryland communities. It has been and will continue to be a cost-effective program to achieve significant public environmental benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jud Ashman", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jud Ashman
Mayor
City of Gaithersburg



ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER



Favorable Testimony – SB 0014

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

We are living in unprecedented times, with an intersection of global crisis having an impact on our local communities. From the climate emergency to the global pandemic, to growing economic instability and ever present social and racial inequalities, the frontline dealing with these issues are our local governments.

To respond to these multiple crises, governments at all levels need to act and adapt. While many Maryland municipalities have already started actively taking measures to address some of these challenges (e.g., formally declaring a climate emergency, developing buy local campaigns, adopting equity committees, etc.), they often face barriers such as inadequate training, a lack of a clear direction, insufficient funding, and limited capacity that stifle action. The Environmental Finance Center's Sustainable Maryland (SM) program works to address these barriers to action and to build local capacity so that communities can thrive.

For the past ten years, the SM program has provided a cohesive, tailored, and replicable process for community-based action that fosters a pipeline for continued engagement between residents and local governments. The program has helped 54 percent of municipalities in choosing a direction for their sustainability efforts and has designated 27 percent of Maryland municipalities as "Sustainable Maryland Certified" for their outstanding accomplishments. In the past three years, this proven framework has also been piloted with residential associations, launching projects in over 20 homeowners and civic associations.

This trusted community resource, that serves as a network for quickly disseminating information to a body of engaged residents, engaging local leadership in addressing multiple challenges, and building connectivity and community across the state, helps to inspire, motivate, and mobilize action. HB 0014 – Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment will expand and enhance this cost-effective program so that communities across the state can have the needed support to deepen their commitments to sustainability and take action to address the many interconnected crises of today.

After ten years of launching new Green Teams, organizing peer leadership networking events, and facilitating the replication of innovative projects and programs across the state, it is clear that Sustainable Maryland has demonstrated the value and effectiveness of the program. The SM program stands ready to assist the State as they take the necessary actions to address the most urgent issues of our lifetimes. We urge you to support the SM program, which empowers local governments and communities throughout the state to attain sustainability goals and back up the State's commitments with adequate funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Hunninghake".

Mike Hunninghake
Program Manager
Sustainable Maryland



HELPING COMMUNITIES INVEST TODAY FOR A MORE LIVABLE TOMORROW

February 7, 2022

Re: MD SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Senators of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

We, the undersigned municipal communities in Maryland, stand united in support of MD SB0014 and urge a “YES” vote on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund. Our cities and towns represent a broad-based and diverse cross-section of communities from across the state that 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 ten years, SM has supported municipal governments across the state of Maryland by providing jurisdictions like ours 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 citizens 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.

As registered and certified municipalities of the SM program, we 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.

Not only does SM enable us to more easily navigate other state and local programs, but it also helps us to organize our residents to take action. Through the SM program we have received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, established a plan for taking action, and increased our ability to pursue funding to improve our community. The SM 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 innovative community-based projects.

By supporting the SM Program Fund, you honor the state's commitment to support Maryland communities. The current legislation advocates for local governments and helps provide much needed resources for improving the civic infrastructure upon which our communities depend. 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.

Sincerely,

The following individuals from Sustainable Maryland Registered and Certified municipalities have proactively signed this letter in support of SB0014.

City of Aberdeen

Adam Hiob, Councilmember
Sandra Landbeck, Councilmember

City of Annapolis

Gavin Buckley, Mayor

City of Bowie

Tim Adams, Mayor
Adrian Boafo, Councilmember
Michael Esteve, Councilmember
Henri Gardner, Councilmember
Ingrid Harrison, Councilmember
Roxy Ndebumadu, Councilmember
Dufour Woolfley, Councilmember

City of Brunswick

Nathan Brown, Mayor

City of Cambridge

Brian Roche, Commissioner

City of College Park

Patrick L Wojahn, Mayor

City of Frederick

Michael C. O'Connor, Mayor
Kelly Russell, Alderman

City of Frostburg

Bob Flanigan, Mayor
Nina Forsythe, Commissioner
Laura Bennett, Community Development

City of Gaithersburg

Jud Ashman, Mayor

City of Greenbelt

Emmett Jordan, Mayor
J Davis, Councilmember
Luisa Robles, Sustainability Coordinator

City of Havre de Grace

William Martin, Mayor

City of Hyattsville

Kevin Ward, Mayor
Robert Croslin, Council President
Sam Denes, Councilmember
Edward Haba, Councilmember
Jimmy McClellan, Councilmember
Daniel Peabody, Councilmember
Rommel Sandino, Councilmember
Danny Schaible, Councilmember
Ben Simasek, Councilmember
Joseph Solomon, Councilmember
Joanne Waszczak, Councilmember

City of Laurel

Craig A. Moe, Mayor

City of Mount Rainier

Celina Benitez, Mayor
Jimmy Tarlau, Councilmember
Jarrett Stoltfus, Councilmember
Luke Chesek, Councilmember

City of New Carrollton

Phelecia Nembhard, Mayor
Cynthia Mills, Councilmember
Allyne Hooks, Councilmember
Katrina Dodro, Councilmember
Briana Urbina, Councilmember
Sarah Potter Robins, Councilmember
Latasha Gatling, City Administrative Officer
Michael McMahon, Asst City Admin. Officer

City of Rockville

Bridget Donnell Newton, Mayor

City of Salisbury

Jake Day, Mayor

City of Takoma Park

Kate Stewart, Mayor

Town of Barnesville

Mildred Callear, Commission President

Town of Bel Air

Kevin Bianca, Mayor
Mary Chance, Commissioner
Paula Etting, Commissioner
Erin Hughes, Commissioner
Donna Kahoe, Commissioner

Town of Berwyn Heights

Amanda Dewey, Mayor

Town of Bladensburg

Takisha James, Mayor
Marilyn Blount, Councilmember
Trina Brown, Councilmember
Carol McBryde, Councilmember

Jocelyn Route, Councilmember

Town of Boonsboro

Howard Long, Mayor

Town of Brentwood

Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Mayor

Town of Burkittsville

Deborah Burgoyne, Mayor

Town of Chesapeake Beach

Pat Mahoney, Mayor

Town of Chestertown

David Foster, Mayor

Town of Cheverly

Kayce Munyeneh, Mayor

Town of Colmar Manor

Sadara B. Barrow, Mayor
Doug Bowles, Councilmember

Town of Cottage City

Wanda Wheatley, Commission Chair
Ann Marshall Young, Commissioner
Artis Amarche, Commissioner
Demetrius Givens, Commissioner
Danielle Urey, Commissioner

Town of Denton

Abby McNinch, Mayor

Town of Edmonston

Tracy Gant, Mayor
Rod Barnes, Town Administrator

Town of Eagle Harbor

Noah Waters, Mayor

Town of Emmitsburg

Donald N. Briggs, Mayor
Maddy Shaw, Town Clerk

Town of Fairmount Heights

Lillie Thompson-Martin, Mayor

Town of Federalsburg

Kimberly Abner, Mayor

Town of Forest Heights

Calvin J. Washington, Sr., Mayor

Town of Galena

John Carroll, Mayor

Justinian Dispenza, Councilmember

Kathleen Billmire, Town Facilities and

Zoning Coordinator

Town of Glen Echo

Dia Costello, Mayor

Elizabeth Boa, Town Manager

Town of Keedysville

Ken Lord, Mayor

Town of Kensington

Tracey Furman, Mayor

Darin Bartram, Councilmember

Conor Crimmins, Councilmember

Nate Engle, Councilmember

Bridget Hill-Zayat, Councilmember

Town of Landover Hills

Jeff Schomisch, Mayor

Jeannette Ripley, Vice-Mayor

Joe Williams, Councilmember

Todd Over, Councilmember

Kathleen Walker, Councilmember

Mike Walker, Councilmember

Town of La Plata

Jeannie James, Mayor

Town of Middletown

John Miller, Burgess

Mark Carney, Planning Commissioner

Cynthia Unangst, Staff Planner

Town of Morningside

Bennard Cann, Mayor

Town of New Market

Jason Poirier, Council President

Lynne Galletti, Councilmember

Town of North Beach

Mike Benton, Mayor

Town of North Brentwood

Petrella Robinson, Mayor

Town of Ocean City

Richard Meehan, Mayor

Town of Pittsville

Sean McHugh, Commission President

Joseph A Mangini, Jr, Town Manager

Town of Poolesville

Jim Brown, Commission President

Kerri Cook, Commissioner

Jeff Eck, Commissioner

Martin Radigan, Commissioner

Ed Reed, Commissioner

Town of Riverdale Park

Alan K. Thompson, Mayor

Richard Smith, Councilmember

Aaron Faulx, Councilmember

Town of Somerset

Jeffrey Slavin, Mayor

Robin Barr, Councilmember

Town of Thurmont

John A. Kinnaird, Mayor

Bill Buehrer, Commissioner

Wayne Hooper, Commissioner

Wes Hamrick, Commissioner

Bill Blakeslee, Commissioner

Jim Humerick, Chief Administrative Officer

Vickie Grinder, Economic Development
Manager

Town of Upper Marlboro

Sarah Franklin, President/Mayor

Town of Walkersville

Chad Weddle, Burgess

Town of Washington Grove

John Compton, Mayor

Village of Friendship Heights

Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Councilmember

Village of North Chevy Chase

Adrian Andreassi, Council Chair

Brian Hoffner, Council Vice Chair

Maury Mechanick, Secretary

Olga Joos, Treasurer

Susan Theis, Village Manager



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

7401 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 201 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGEPAKMD.GOV

January 18, 2022

MAYOR

Patrick L. Wojahn
pwojahn@collegetparkmd.gov
240.988.7763

DISTRICT 1

Fazlul Kabir
fkabir@collegetparkmd.gov
301.659.6295

Kate Kennedy
kkennedy@collegetparkmd.gov
202.400.1501

DISTRICT 2

Llatetra Brown Esters
lbesters@collegetparkmd.gov
240.636.3584

Susan Whitney
swhitney@collegetparkmd.gov
202.603.3634

DISTRICT 3

Stuart Adams
sadams@collegetparkmd.gov
301.364.4576

John B. Rigg
jrigg@collegetparkmd.gov
443.646.3503

DISTRICT 4

Maria E. Mackie
mmackie@collegetparkmd.gov
240.472.0681

Denise Mitchell
dmitchell@collegetparkmd.gov
301.852.8126

Senator Paul G. Pinsky
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Senator Pinsky and Delegates of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the City Council and residents of College Park, I urge a "YES" vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. We have greatly 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 jurisdictions like ours 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.

As a registered and certified municipality of the SM program, we 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.

Through the SM program we have received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, established a plan for taking action, and increased our ability to pursue funding to improve our community. The SM 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



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

7401 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 201 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGEPAKMD.GOV

MAYOR

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DISTRICT 1

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DISTRICT 2

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DISTRICT 3

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jrigg@collegeparkmd.gov

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DISTRICT 4

Maria E. Mackie

mmackie@collegeparkmd.gov

240.472.0681

Denise Mitchell

dmitchell@collegeparkmd.gov

301.852.8126

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 the City's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pat. Wojahn".

Patrick L. Wojahn

Mayor



City of Frostburg

W. Robert Flanigan
Mayor

Commissioners

Donald L. Carter, Jr.
*Commissioner of
Finance*

Kevin G. Grove
*Commissioner of
Public Safety*

Nina Forsythe
*Commissioner of
Water, Parks and
Recreation*

Adam Ritchey
*Commissioner of
Public Works*

Elizabeth Stahlman
City Administrator

January 13, 2022

Laura J. (L.J.) Bennett
Community Development Director, Green Team Member
City of Frostburg
37 Broadway
Frostburg, MD 21532

Re: Support for SB0014 /HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee and Senators of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, **the City of Frostburg Green Team urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.**

As residents and Green Team members of the City of Frostburg we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. As a certified municipality our City has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for over 6 years. The City of Frostburg has benefitted from participating in the SM program in numerous ways. A Community Garden was constructed in a vacant lot with space for 16, 24 SF plots, a donated rain cube, and water hydrant provided by the City. Frostburg's Green Team spearheaded a campaign to encourage citizens to responsibly dispose of pet waste, and educate the community on the human health and environmental consequences of proper disposal.

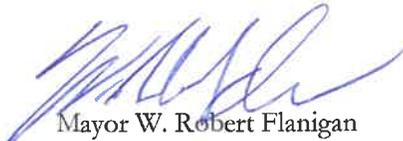
Leadership training sponsored by the SM Program and attended by City Staff and Green Team members has led to an application and approval for a Maryland Energy Administration grant for an electric police vehicle, leading the way for our very first EV in the City fleet. The SM Program has been instrumental in helping Frostburg develop its Green Team and identify potential sustainability projects. The reliability of SM staff in terms of technical assistance for sustainability projects and guidance throughout the program is exemplary. As a result, citizens are more deeply engaged with local elected officials and municipal projects where their volunteer time and expertise is appreciated. The SM framework is the model followed in Frostburg and has been crucial to the formation, development, and cohesiveness of the Green Team. The peer-to-peer network has added value to not only the work conducted in the Community Development Department, but also has added value and growth potential to the relationships with the citizenry in the private sector.

While other programs offer specific environmental services the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop out our capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs that we can take

advantage of resources already available. Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed to expand marketing to encourage buying local produce at the Farmer's Market, and supporting food preservation demonstrations. Support to develop a "CSO EDU" program to educate local University and High School students about the Consent Decree to eliminate the combined sewer overflows in our community, where current and future projects directly impact University and High School adjacent areas, would lead to a greater understanding of how and why these projects are so important to our watersheds and our ability to sustain our valuable natural resources. Our local community takes great pride in the many natural resources we enjoy and is dedicated to developing initiatives to sustain solid stewardship of those resources.

Vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in our city but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,



Mayor W. Robert Flanigan
City of Frostburg



L.J. Bennett
Community Development Director
Green Team Member
City of Frostburg

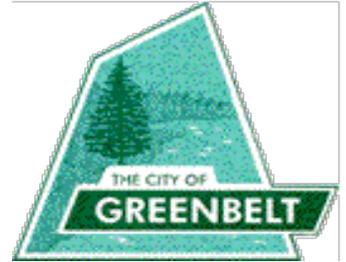


Nina Forsythe
Commissioner of Water, Parks and Recreation
Green Team Member



Kevin Grove
Commissioner of Public Safety
Green Team Member

Green ACES



Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

January 14, 2022

Re: MD SB0014 / HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Maryland's municipal communities stand united in support of the MD SB0014 / HB 0100 and urge a "YES" vote on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund. Our cities and towns represent a broad-based and diverse cross-section of over 80 communities from across our state that 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 ten years, SM has supported municipal governments across the state of Maryland by providing jurisdictions like ours 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 citizens 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.

As a certified municipality of the SM program, we 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.

Not only does SM enable us to more easily navigate other state and local programs, but it also helps us to organize our residents to take action. Through the SM program we have received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, established a plan for taking action, and increased our ability to pursue funding to improve our community. The SM 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.

By supporting the SM Program Fund, you honor the state's commitment to support Maryland communities. The current legislation advocates for local governments and helps provide much needed resources for improving the civic infrastructure upon which our communities depend. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. Lippert".

John Lippert, Chair
Greenbelt Green Team



408 North Union Avenue • Havre de Grace, MD 21078 • hdggreenteam@gmail.com

January 17, 2022

Delegates of the Appropriations Committee
Senators of the Education, Health, and Environment Committee

Re: Support for SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment Dear Delegates,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, the Havre de Grace Green Team urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

As residents and Green Team members of Havre de Grace we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. As a certified municipality our city has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for over 5 years. Our Green Team strives to assist our city through adopting and implementing practices that protect our environment both now and for future generations. The support provided by Sustainable Maryland through information and available trainings are integral to our continued success.

While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of resources already available.

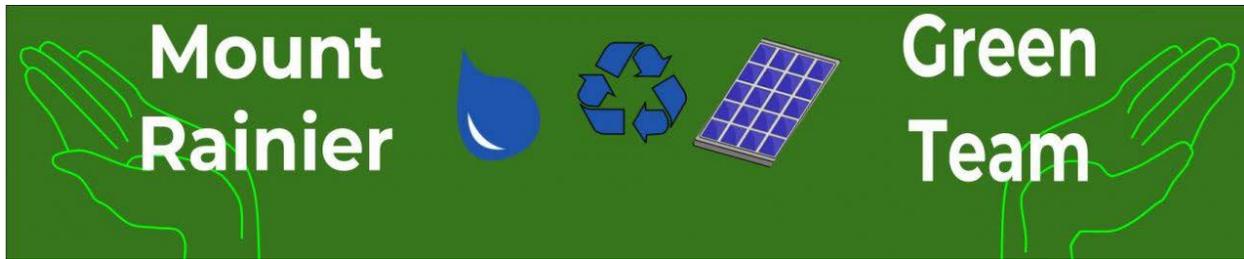
Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed continue communicating the importance of sustainable environmental practices to our elected officials.

Vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in Havre de Grace but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carol A. Zimmerman'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Zimmerman, President
Havre de Grace Green Team



January 19, 2022

Re: MD HB 100 / SB 14 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment (Position: Favorable)

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

The Mount Rainier Green Team wishes to express its support of the **MD HB 100 / SB 14** and urges a favorable report and a “YES” vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Our Green Team and our community have benefited greatly 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.

The City of Mount Rainier has a long history with the Sustainable Maryland program. Mount Rainier was one of the first four municipalities certified through the program in 2012. The City was also the Sustainability Champion in 2015 and was certified for the fourth time in 2021. Thus we have firsthand experience with this unique framework that helps provide our Green Team, elected officials, and staff with the education and technical assistance we need to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues.

There are so many improvements that the city would not have done if not for the Sustainable Maryland Program, in particular ones that allowed us to do our part to improve the Chesapeake Bay. The City recently installed pet waste stations throughout the community that will reduce harmful pet waste from draining into the Chesapeake Bay, a program that was made more affordable through Sustainable Maryland. The City also was able to work with Sustainable Maryland and their University partners to analyze the City’s carbon footprint, which then led to adoption of a climate resolution to put us on the path to net zero emissions. With more and consistent funding the Sustainable Maryland program could provide these types of resources to a greater swath of Maryland.

The program also allows for knowledge transfer between municipalities. For instance, Mount Rainier learned of the successful edible forest in Edmonston and Hyattsville and now we have two successful edible forests. We learned of these activities and others at Sustainable Maryland hosted forums. Through Sustainable Maryland forums we are sharing our successes with other municipalities too, such as our new native pollinator network program that would benefit from much wider adoption. Permanent funding will allow for more consistent opportunities like

these to allow municipalities to develop collaborative efforts, share ideas, and make Maryland more sustainable.

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 Maryland General Assembly should take this opportunity to expand and support this high-performing program in order to create more and stronger Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lifsey

Sarah Lifsey
Chair
Mount Rainier Green Team



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor



Date: January 18th, 2022

Re: Support for SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee and Senators of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, **the City of Salisbury Green Team urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.**

As residents and Green Team members of the City of Salisbury we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. As a certified municipality our City has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for over 7 years. Salisbury's growing sustainability initiatives are largely in part due to our participation in the Sustainable Maryland Program. We are proud to be a Sustainable Maryland Certified Community, and work constantly to improve our practices and continue to achieve more actions. Sustainable Maryland has provided resources, initiatives, and assistance to us throughout the years, and this certification has helped us bolster community engagement on environmental issues.

While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of resources already available. Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed to be a more resilient and sustainable community.

Vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in our City but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,

Elise Trelegan, Chair, City of Salisbury Green Team

Ryan Weitzel, Vice-Chair, City of Salisbury Green Team

Marina Feeser, Member, City of Salisbury Green Team

Ley Rideout, Member, City of Salisbury Green Team

Matthias Pieplak, Member, City of Salisbury Green Team

Amy Heger, Member, City of Salisbury Green Team

Lisa Howard, Member, City of Salisbury Green Team

Sara-eah Hoffman, Member, City of Salisbury Green Team

Diallo Sessoms, Member, City of Salisbury Green Team

Noah Bressman, Member, City of Salisbury Green Team



Town of Barnesville Green Team

January 20, 2022

Appropriations Committee
Education, Health and Environment Committee

Re: Support for SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund –
Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee/ Dear Delegates of the Education,
Health and Environment Committee,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, the Sustainable Barnesville Committee, otherwise known as the Barnesville Green Team, urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

As residents and Green Team members of the town of Barnesville we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. As an incorporated municipality our town has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for three years. Barnesville is a "tiny" town within the Agricultural Reserve in Montgomery County. Although our town population is small, we are sustaining a community that includes residents in the surrounding unincorporated parts of Montgomery County. We have limited resources and face many challenges in our efforts to preserve the way of life enjoyed by our residents. The Sustainable Maryland program helped provide a framework for the town to launch its efforts in sustainability. Members of our town's Green Team have taken advantage of several opportunities to expand our capabilities with the assistance of the Sustainable Maryland program. As a tiny town, we have no paid staff and rely on volunteer Commissioners and citizens for any projects we undertake. We can leverage our own capacity with help from Sustainable Maryland. Three members attended the ACCO Climate Change Officers training offered by the Department of Natural Resources, and introduced to us through SM. We were able to launch a Sustainable Barnesville webpage for our community thanks to a summer intern that was provided to us by SM. We take advantage of the SM website frequently so we can review

PO Box 95
Barnesville, MD 20838

projects that other communities have provided to their residents. We anticipate working with SM over the coming years as we explore funding for other issues we encounter.

While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of resources already available. Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our efforts, ensuring that our town gets the support needed to pursue many projects it has in its pipeline -- such as replacement of our streetlights with LED dark-sky-compliant fixtures, dealing with worsening stormwater management issues on our streets, and continuing to improve our open space in town and create a walkable environment.

Vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in our town but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,

The Barnesville Green Team
Joyce Bailey, Co-chair
Audrey Morris, Co-chair
Jane Thompson
Anne Sturm
Lauren Greenberger



TOWN OF BEL AIR

DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS

705 E. CHURCHVILLE ROAD
BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014
www.belair.bel-air.md.us

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PUBLIC WORKS [410] 879-9507
FAX: [410] 838-0775

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kevin M. Bianca
Mary F. Chance
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Erin S. Hughes
Donna L. Kahoe

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
Kevin L. Small

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
Stephen D. Kline

Date: January 13, 2022

Re: Support for SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment

Dear General Assembly Members,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, **the Town of Bel Air's Green Team urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.**

As residents and Green Team members of the Town of Bel Air, we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. As a certified municipality our Town has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for over eight years. Sustainable Maryland has helped our elected officials understand the benefits of green design and has provided clear and easy to understand explanations of complicated projects.

The Town staff and Sustainability Committee regularly reference resources on the SM website to come up with innovative ways to attack difficult environmental problems. This especially relates to the inclusion of social and economic issues as part of the sustainable paradigm. The Town has applied the advice of SM staff to the identification of funding sources, provision of technical information and connection to other towns and cities that have confronted similar challenges.

While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of resources already available. Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed to address climate change and how it affects our town and the region.

Vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in our Town but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,



Kevin L. Small, AICP, RLA, LEED GA
Director of Planning & Community Development
Chair of the Bel Air Sustainability Committee
Town of Bel Air



TOWN OF
Berwyn Heights
MARYLAND

Date: 1/13/2022

Re: Support for SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee and Senators of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, **the Berwyn Heights Green Team urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.**

As residents and Green Team members of Berwyn Heights, we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. As a certified municipality our Town has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for over eight years. The SM program launched our Town's Green Team, largely starting our community-based sustainability efforts. We have benefited in many ways from our participation in the program. Recently, SM helped connect us to other municipalities and state programs that allowed us to install pet waste stations that have reduced contamination of our watershed. We have participated in trainings and green team summits that have given us ideas for new programs and connected us to collaborative opportunities in our region. The support and structure of this program have allowed us to undertake countless efforts that have improved quality of life and sustainability in our community, including starting a community garden, implementing a shade tree program, providing residents with resources and education to combat stormwater problems on their properties, and hosting a workshop focused on solutions to climate change.

While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework provides our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of other existing resources.

Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our sustainability efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed to learn about innovative solutions to environmental challenges and connect with agencies, municipalities, and organizations.

Please vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Your "Yes" vote will help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in our town but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,

The Berwyn Heights Green Team



TOWN OF BOONSBORO

21 NORTH MAIN STREET ♦ BOONSBORO, MARYLAND 21713

WWW.TOWN.BOONSBORO.MD.US ♦ 301-432-5141



January 13, 2022

Re: Support for SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee and Senators of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, **the Boonsboro Green Team urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.**

As residents and Green Team members of Boonsboro, we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland (SM) program. As a certified municipality, our Town has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for over seven years (since 2014). The Sustainable Maryland program helped Boonsboro kick-start its way to more sustainable practices, successfully completing many actions for certification. Some of these include the following: Started a farmer's market, completed energy audits (all town buildings now use LED bulbs, many old and outdated heat pumps have been replaced with Energy Star-efficient units, and the town began a Green Purchasing Policy), initiated curbside recycling, became Tree City USA certified, approved a Pet Waste Ordinance, installed pet waste receptacles in the town park, and hosted annual Stream Clean-ups and tree plantings, in concert with National Arbor Day. We have also received credit for our Green Fest, which celebrated its 11th year before Covid. A Green Team member has attended SM-hosted yearly Leadership Training and webinars. These are just a few of the SM actions that have helped Boonsboro become certified. Without SM's help, Boonsboro would not be as far along on sustainability practices as it is.

While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of resources already available. Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed to begin a community garden, and make our town more "walkable," with paths/access to the park and schools. We look forward to Sustainable Maryland's support and cost-effective solutions.

Vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in our town but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability. Sustainability is the wave of the future.

Sincerely,

Boonsboro Green Team Members: Kathy Vesely, Kim Pruitt, Barb Wetzel, Andy Watson, and Kristen Disbennett
Boonsboro Mayor Howard Long

Boonsboro Town Manager Paul Mantello

Boonsboro Town Planner Reiley Stanley

TOWN OF EDMONSTON

MAYOR
TRACY R. GANT
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
RODNEY BARNES



COUNCIL MEMBERS
HILARY CHESTER
BETSY MCCAULEY
JOHN A. JOHNSON
SARAH TURBERVILLE

January 13, 2022

Re: Support for SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, **the Edmonston Green Team urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.**

As residents and Green Team members of Edmonston we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. As a certified municipality our Town has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for over 9 years. Sustainable Maryland provided the Town of Edmonston crucial training and funding to implement a pet waste program in the Town. Reducing pollutants to the Anacostia River is a major priority to improve the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This is just one example of how the Town has been impacted by the work of the SM program. With the Town's limited resources, the Green Team Action Plan would not be able to be implemented without the support and technical assistance from the SM program. The SM program provides training opportunities and networking events that help identify common objectives that communities in Maryland share. Due to a summit event conducted by SM, the Green Teams on the Route 1 Corridor identified composting and food waste collection as an action item that communities could unite to create a positive outcome. The SM team facilitated this group. Without their involvement, identifying regional issues that can be worked on through collaborative solutions would be much harder to implement.

While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of resources already available. Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed to assist Edmonston with identifying sustainable alternatives for our residents. Edmonston leads the way in the region for our green initiatives. The Sustainable Maryland program provides the network to identify financing solutions for options and to educate our elected officials and green team members on options available to meet the Town's sustainability action plan.

Vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in our town but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,

Rod Barnes
Edmonston Green Team

5005 52nd Avenue, Edmonston, MD 20781
301 699-8806 (Office) 301 699-8203 (Fax)
Website: edmonstonmd.gov



Town of Emmitsburg

Mayor Donald N. Briggs

Board of Commissioners
Timothy O'Donnell, *President*
Clifford Sweeney, *Vice President*
T.J. Burns, *Treasurer*
Joseph Ritz III
Frank Davis

Town Manager
Cathy Willets

Town Clerk
Madeline Shaw

January 14, 2022

**Re: Support for SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable
Maryland Program Fund – Establishment**

Dear General Assembly Members,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, **the Town of Emmitsburg's Green Team urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland (SM) Program Fund.**

As residents and Green Team members of the Town of Emmitsburg in northern Frederick County we have experienced firsthand the benefits of the program. The Town has been a certified Sustainable Maryland (SM) municipality since 2014. The SM program provides our Green Team ideas and resources for developing further sustainability initiatives in our Town and valuable training for our members, which is composed of 11 community members from various families, businesses and non-profits. Numerous times in the past we have emailed SM asking for additional resources or contacts for starting a new "green" project within our Town. The monthly newsletters also provide valuable grant opportunities and help our team members to see how neighboring municipalities are becoming more sustainability focused and how we can partner together to achieve a common goal.

While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of resources already available. Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed to receive training, fund future green projects and learn about innovative solutions.

Vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in the Town of Emmitsburg but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,

Donald N. Briggs
Emmitsburg Mayor

Green Team Members:

Madeline Shaw, Charlotte Mazaleski, Barbara Weedon, Diane Walbrecker, Stephen McGinley, Zach Gulden, Libby Briggs, Donald Briggs, Wayne Slaughter, Sandy Slaughter, and Kelsey Wailes.

The Town of
GLEN ECHO
Chartered 1904

Town Hall • 6106 Harvard Avenue • P.O. Box 598 • Glen Echo • MD 20812 • (301) 320-4041

January 19, 2022

Re: MD HB0100 / SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee/ Dear Delegates of the Education, Health and Environment Committee,

The Town of Glen Echo Green Team wishes to express its support of the **MD HB0100 / SB0014** and urges a "YES" vote on the bill to establish the **Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Our Green Team and our community has benefited greatly 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.

As a certified municipality of the SM program, we have firsthand experience with this unique framework that helps provide our Green Team, elected officials, and staff with the education and technical assistance we need to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues.

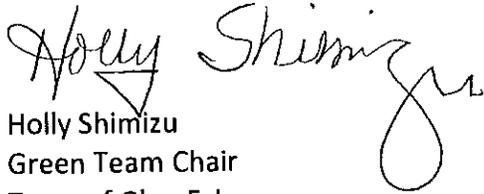
Not only does SM enable us to more easily navigate other state and local programs, but it also helps us to organize our residents to take action. Through the SM program we have received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, established a plan for taking action, and increased our ability to pursue funding to improve our community. The SM program has become a primary driver for building community capacity to engage in sustainability projects.

Sustainable Maryland has helped the residents of our Town develop specific goals in order to achieve our vision to become a Green Town. It has inspired the development of a pollinator/wildlife garden, tree planting, education programs, and successful grants to develop green infrastructure. The Sustainable Maryland program was our first step in going green and continues to support and guide our efforts. Our SM certification elevated awareness of the importance of sustainability but also provided a much needed identity as a Town that cares about green practices.

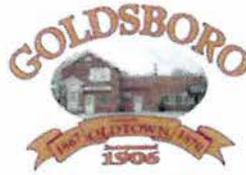
By supporting this bill, the state will help to elevate and amplify these efforts. The SM Program Fund will help to replicate and scale Green Teams to other local jurisdictions and provide much needed funding to pursue new and innovative community-based projects. The State should

take this opportunity to expand and support this high-performing program in order to create more and stronger Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Shimizu". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the name.

Holly Shimizu
Green Team Chair
Town of Glen Echo



Kelly Carver, Council Member
Jamie Yeager, Council Member

Jeannette DeLude, Town Manager/Clerk

Date: January 18, 2022

Re: Support for SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund- Establishment

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, the Town of Goldsboro's Green Team urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

The Goldsboro Green Team has firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. As a registered municipality, our Town has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for 4 years. The program has been the key to establishing and maintaining our sustainable efforts. The Town registered in 2018 with the help of Mike Hunninghake. Mike attended our kick-off meeting to explain the benefits and process of becoming a certified municipality. From that meeting, we created our Vision and an Action Plan; we have been using that Action Plan as our map for action. The program pointed us to the Maryland Smart Communities grant, we applied and are currently working on reducing the electricity usage in our Town Hall. Last spring the Town hosted the first ever Farmer's Market; the market was so successful the committee is currently working on plans for the 2020 season. Additionally, the Town is working towards greening the Town Office property using the Green Street, Green Jobs, Green Towns grant program. The program has been a great motivation as we work towards earning points towards certification. The SM Leadership seminars, the newsletters, and the link to other Towns' efforts have provided information on actions and resources to improve our sustainability.

While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps our Commissioners and Green Team members. The resources and technical assistance enable the Town to develop its own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of resources already available. The assistance provided by the SM Program is especially critical to the tiny towns with little or no staff. Every resource you can provide to establish a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed to identify solutions, pay or contribute to payment for projects, and communicate with Town and surrounding community residents- especially critical for Towns without an on-line presence.

Vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in our Town but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely, 

January 20, 2022

Re: MD HB0100 / SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

The Keedysville Green Team wishes to express its support of the **MD HB0100 / SB0014** and urges a “YES” vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Our Green Team and our community has benefited greatly 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.

As a Keedysville municipality of the SM program, we have firsthand experience with this unique framework that helps provide our Green Team, elected officials, and staff with the education and technical assistance we need to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues.

Not only does SM enable us to more easily navigate other state and local programs, but it also helps us to organize our residents to take action. Through the SM program we have received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, established a plan for taking action, and increased our ability to pursue funding to improve our community. The SM 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 create more and stronger Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Lord', written in a cursive style.

Ken Lord, Mayor, Keedysville, MD

RIVERDALE PARK



January 21, 2022

Re: Support for SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee and Senators of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

As you deliberate the State of Maryland's legislative priorities in the coming weeks, the Town of Riverdale Park Green Team urges you to support SB0014/HB0100 and vote "YES" on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

As residents and Green Team members of the Town of Riverdale Park we have firsthand experience with the benefits of the Sustainable Maryland program. As a Sustainable Maryland (SM) certified municipality since 2014 our Town has relied on the SM program to support our comprehensive sustainability efforts for the last 8 years. Over the years, the SM team has taken the lead in connecting the dots between our Maryland communities that literally amplify benefits to both human and environmental sustainability for the region.

Specifically, the Town of Riverdale Park has benefitted from the relationship established for us by SM with the University of Maryland School of Information Science, Community Outreach Coordinator. Through the work of graduate students completing CAPSTONE projects, our Town staff have multiple studies on stormwater issues, food security, composting, community gardens and energy efficiency upon which to base decisions and make recommendations to our Town Council for the betterment of the quality of life for our Town's residents. In addition, members of our Green Team and Town staff have taken full advantage of attending SM Leadership Trainings as well as the individualized attention we get from the dedicated SM team.

Our Town website documents Visions and Commitments which all include an element of sustainability. While other programs offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide our elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team members the education and technical assistance needed to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues comprehensively and navigate other state and local programs so that we can take advantage of resources already available. Establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen our

RIVERDALE PARK



efforts, ensuring that we get the support needed to achieve the resilience demanded to address environmental challenges, such as stormwater management, in the future.

Vote "Yes" on SB0014/HB0100 and establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund in order to increase technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage more communities to take action. Help build community capacity to engage in sustainability projects, not just in our town but in the growing number of communities throughout the state who are deeply invested in pursuing local environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Sincerely,

Town of Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee (Green Team) Members

Lora Katz, 4507 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737
Sarah Wayland, 4711 Sheridan St, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Jillian Molina, 6409 Taylor Rd, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Dan Collinge, 4607 Tuckerman Street, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Sarah Batto, 6308 47th Ave, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Jacob Foster, 6308 47th Ave, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Jaynee Acevedo, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Karyn McAlister, 4705 Tuckerman Street, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
David Lingua, 5902 Riverside Drive, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Grace Pooley, 5301 50th Avenue, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Dan McDonald, 6309 51st Avenue, Riverdale Park, MD 20737



THE COMMISSIONERS OF THURMONT

615 East Main Street
P.O. Box 17
Thurmont, Maryland 21788
301-271-7313
Fax: 301-271-2155

January 13, 2022

Re: MD SB0014 / HB 0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee and Senators of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

The Thurmont Green Team wishes to express its support of the MD SB0014 /HB 0100 and urges a "YES" vote on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund. Our Green Team and community have benefited greatly 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.

As a Certified Municipality of the SM program, we have firsthand experience with this unique framework that helps provide our Green Team, elected officials and staff with the education and technical assistance we need to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues. Thurmont approved a Green Purchasing Policy, Arbor Day events and residential clustering to allow for more areas to be set aside for environmental uses.

Not only does SM enable us to more easily navigate other state and local programs, but it also helps us to organize our residents to take action. Through the SM program we have received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, established a plan for taking action and increased our ability to pursue funding to improve our community. The SM program has become a primary driver for building community capacity to engage in sustainable projects. The Green Team arranged for Stream Clean-Up of Hunting Creek, Storm drain Stenciling for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and a local Farmers Market and other outreach events for the town and neighboring area.

The Town of Thurmont has been able to upgrade most of the town street lights, light the walk/bike Trolley Trail, and renovate an older home to accommodate the Town Offices in a sustainable manner. Through the camaraderie of other state Green Teams and training via the Sustainable Maryland Program we have established our own Thurmont Green Fest which provides educational materials, demonstrations, and information on sustainability to our residents.

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 create more and stronger Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

James C. Humerick
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Thurmont

Thurmont Green Team
ThurmontGreen@gmail.com
615 E Main Street, Thurmont, MD 21788



January 12, 2022

Re: MD SB0014 / HB 0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund -
Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee & Delegates of the Education, Health and
Environment Committee,

The Thurmont Green Team wishes to express its support of the MD SB0014 / HB 0100 and urges a
"YES" vote on the bill to establish the **Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Our Green Team and
community has benefited greatly 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.

As a Certified Municipality of the SM program, we have firsthand experience with this unique
framework that helps provide our Green Team, elected officials and staff with the education and
technical assistance we need to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues.
Thurmont approved a Green Purchasing Policy, Arbor Day events and residential clustering to allow
for more areas to be set aside for environmental uses.

Not only does SM enable us to more easily navigate other state and local programs, but it also helps
us to organize our residents to take action. Through the SM program we have received training and
information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, established a
plan for taking action and increased our ability to pursue funding to improve our community. The SM
program has become a primary driver for building community capacity to engage in sustainable
projects. The Green Team arranged for Stream Clean-Up of Hunting Creek, Storm drain Stenciling for
the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and a local Farmers Market and other outreach events for the town
and neighboring area.

The Town of Thurmont has been able to upgrade most of the town street lights, light the walk/bike
Trolley Trail, and renovate an older home to accommodate the Town Offices in a sustainable manner.
Through the camaraderie of other state Green Teams and training via the Sustainable Maryland
Program we have established our own Thurmont Green Fest which provides educational materials,
demonstrations, and information on sustainability to our residents.

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 create more and stronger
Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Poole".

Cindy Poole
chairman, Town of Thurmont Green Team

January 20, 2022

Re: MD HB0100 / SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

The Audubon Square Community Association wishes to express its support of the **MD HB0100 / SB0014** and urges a “YES” vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Our community in City of Gaithersburg made up of 234 townhome units, 3 Tot Lots and 1 Dog Park (our common property) on approximately 80 acres has benefited greatly 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.

As a recipient of technical assistance from the SM program, we have firsthand experience with this unique framework that helps communities more easily navigate state and local programs, as well as organize residents to take action. Through the SM program we begin work to establish a Green Team, received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, and developed a work plan for taking action. The SM program and the technical assistance it provides has become a primary driver for building our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues and engage in sustainability projects.

Our HOA is constantly striving to involve our community members in environmental projects to benefit all that live not only in Audubon Square but those that live in other parts of Gaithersburg. A cleaner, greener environment is our goal. We’ve sponsored community clean ups, and look forward to planting additional foliage, as well as working on two storm water management projects and several soil conservation projects. We also pride ourselves on our cooperation with the City arborists to perpetuate the planting and care of native trees. Green space has become a priority and we constantly looking to see what projects we can move forward to provide our homeowners and their families as much recreational space as is possible.

By supporting this bill, the state will help to elevate and amplify these efforts. The Sustainable Maryland Program Fund will help to replicate and scale Green Teams to other homeowners’ associations across the state. The State should take this opportunity to expand and support this high-performing program in order to create more and stronger HOA Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,



Supreet Kaur
Treasurer, Audubon Square Community Association

**Diamond Farm Homes Corporation
49 Rye Court
Gaithersburg, MD**

January 20, 2022

Re: MD HB0100 / SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

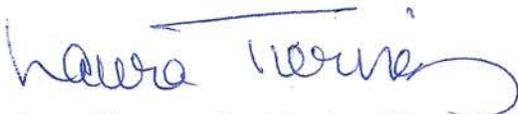
Diamond Farm Homes Corporation wishes to express its support of the **MD HB0100 / SB0014** and urges a "YES" vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Our community in Gaithersburg, made up of 268 townhomes has benefited greatly from the technical assistance, education, 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.

As a recipient of technical assistance from the SM program, we have firsthand experience with this unique framework that helps communities more easily navigate state and local programs, as well as organize residents to take action. Through the SM program we have established a Green Team, received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, and developed a work plan for taking action. The SM program and the technical assistance it provides has become a primary driver for building our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues and engage in sustainability projects.

Diamond Farm is still getting up and running in the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund but has benefitted from the guidance of SM staff in determining priorities, deciding what changes will be easiest to make, and identifying actions we have already taken to improve environmental sustainability. Examples include: we are looking forward to converting a large area of grassy area to native wildflowers to increase food sources for birds, bees, and other wildlife and converting some of our asphalt parking spots to permeable pavement to decrease stormwater runoff – projects SM staff identified as relatively easy projects for Diamond Farm to tackle.

By supporting this bill, the State will help to elevate and amplify these efforts. The Sustainable Maryland Program Fund will help to replicate and scale Green Teams to other homeowners' associations across the state. The State should take this opportunity to expand and support this high-performing program to create more and stronger HOA Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,



Laura Tierney, President and Green Team Member
Diamond Farm Homes Corporation



January 19, 2022

FoxChase One Homeowners' Association
PO Box 436
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20773

Re: MD HB0100 / SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

The FoxChase One Homeowners' Association wishes to express its support of the **MD HB0100 / SB0014** and urges a "YES" vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Our community in Upper Marlboro located in Prince George's County made up of approximately One hundred & Forty (140) single family homes has benefited greatly 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.

As a recipient of technical assistance from the SM program, we have firsthand experience with this unique framework that helps communities more easily navigate state and local programs, as well as organize residents to take action. Through the SM program we have established a Green Team, received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, and developed a work plan for implementation. The SM program and the technical assistance it provides has become a primary driver for building our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues and engage in sustainability projects.

As a result of the partnership with the Sustainable Maryland Program, Environmental Finance Center of the University of Maryland the HOA implemented two events in the previous year to address litter and other illegal waste dumping in and around the community. The HOA Green Team drafted a simple waste reduction plan to reduce illegal dumping and manage community waste issues. With the assistance of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment, conducted two waste reduction events in 2021. They were:

Community Clean Up Day (June 2021)

Objective: To provide homeowners with an easy and legal way to dispose of materials that adhere to the County's list of "Acceptable Waste Items".

Accomplishment: The County's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) provided the FoxChase HOA with two dumpsters where homeowners dumped their acceptable items. Over 75% of the homeowners took advantage of this opportunity.

Litter P/U Day (September 2021)

Objective: To pick up litter on the community's Common Area along Brooke Ln., with the assistance of our landscape contractor.

Accomplishment: So far this effort has proven to be a manageable way to control litter while the landscaping contractor is cutting the area every two weeks without increasing the HOA's overhead costs.

By supporting this bill, the state will help to elevate and amplify these efforts. The Sustainable Maryland Program Fund will help to replicate and scale Green Teams to other homeowners' associations across the state. The State should take this opportunity to expand and support this high-performing program in order to create more and stronger HOA Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,



Michael Brooks, MRBrooks&Assoc
For the Board of FoxChase One Homeowners' Assoc.
PO Box 436, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773 (301) 233-0085

Riverdale Heights/Riverdale Hills/Crestwood Community Association, Inc.
Dedicated to Improving Our Quality of Life
5826 Quintana Street
Riverdale, Maryland 20737

January 18, 2022

Re: MD HB0100 / SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

The Riverdale Heights/Riverdale Hills/Crestwood Community Association (RRC) wishes to express its support of the MD HB0100 / SB0014 and urges a "YES" vote on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund. Our community in Riverdale, made up of approximately 750 households, has benefited greatly 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.

As a recipient of technical assistance from the SM program, we have firsthand experience with this unique framework that helps communities more easily navigate state and local programs, as well as organize residents to take action. Through the SM program we are working on setting up a Green Team, received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, and developed a work plan for taking action. The SM program and the technical assistance it provides has become a primary driver for building our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues and engage in sustainability projects.

We are a very engaged, diverse community. Our community association organizes at least 2 community clean up days per year, providing a dumpster for residents to discard bulky items. We hold annual stream clean up events to ensure Briers Mill Run stream is healthy and clean. We worked with UMD Sustainable Maryland to acquire and install 3 pet waste stations in key locations in our community to alleviate pet waste from polluting our grounds, streets, and waterways. The stations are emptied weekly by community volunteers. In addition to the above, our community planted trees and shrubs in empty lots, and periodically cleaned neighborhood streets. We are planning additional events in 2022.

By supporting this bill, the state will help to elevate and amplify these efforts. The Sustainable Maryland Program Fund will help to replicate and scale Green Teams to other homeowners associations across the state. The State should take this opportunity to expand and support this high-performing program to create more and stronger HOA Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,



Marty Newman, President

Riverdale Heights/Riverdale Hills/Crestwood Community Association, Inc.

January 19, 2022

Re: MD HB0100 / SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

The Timberbrook Condominium wishes to express its support of the MD HB0100 / SB0014 and urges a "YES" vote on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund. Our community in Gaithersburg, made up of 168 households, has benefited greatly from the technical assistance, 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.

As a recipient of technical assistance from the SM program, we have firsthand experience with this unique framework that helps communities more easily navigate state and local programs, as well as organize residents to take action. Through the SM program we have established a Green Team, received information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to our residents, and developed a work plan for taking action. The SM program and the technical assistance it provides has become a primary driver for building our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues and engage in sustainability projects.

Toward sustainability Timberbrook has greatly reduced electricity usage by changing to LED bulbs in parking areas and other outside lighting. The annual electricity cost is now less than half of what it was when the community began about 25 years ago. Timberbrook is also working diligently for proper recycling and reduction of trash. Other projects are reduction of salt usage during winters, promoting composting, restricting usage of gasoline powered equipment for building & grounds work, water conservation and water-efficient landscaping. Anticipated projects include electric vehicle charging stations, bicycle parking facilities and solar power.

By supporting this bill, the state will help to elevate and amplify these efforts. The Sustainable Maryland Program Fund will help to replicate and scale Green Teams to other homeowners associations across the state. The State should take this opportunity to expand and support this high-performing program in order to create more and stronger HOA Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,



Michael Dennis, President of Timberbrook HOA.



David Worcester, Timberbrook Green Team

TIMBERBROOK CONDOMINIUM INC. 103-137 Timberbrook Lane, Gaithersburg MD 20878,
C/O COMSOURCE (Managing agent), 3414 Morningwood Drive, Olney MD 20832.

114 S. Washington St.,
Suite 101
Easton, MD 21601
410-690-4603
FAX 410-690-4604
www.eslc.org



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January 21, 2022

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PRESIDENT

Re: MD HB0100/SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Delegates of the Appropriations Committee / Senators of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy would like to express its support of the MD HB0100/SB0014 and urge a "YES" vote on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund. Many of our small towns on the Eastern Shore 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 ten years, SM has supported municipal governments across the state of Maryland by providing jurisdictions 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 our communities build a strong network of active citizens committed to expanding the capacity of local governments and improving local-level sustainability throughout the state. This is incredibly important given the limited staff and resources of most small towns. 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.

As a local community non-profit operating in the upper six counties of the Eastern Shore that is home to several certified municipalities of the SM program, we have seen firsthand the benefits of a dedicated and comprehensive technical assistance program. While other programs may offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps provide elected officials, staff, and local Green Teams the education and technical assistance needed to develop their capacity to manage local sustainability issues and take advantage of resources already available.

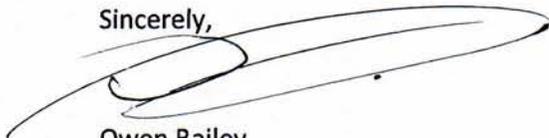
Not only does SM help to enable our communities to easily navigate other state and local programs, but it also helps them to organize their residents to take action. Through the SM program our small towns have received training and information necessary to communicate the importance of sustainability to their residents, established a plan for taking action, and increased our overall ability to pursue funding to improve our communities. The SM 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 innovative community-based projects.

By supporting the SM Program Fund, you honor the state's commitment to support Maryland communities. The current legislation advocates for local governments and helps provide much needed resources for improving the civic infrastructure upon which our communities depend. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Bailey', written over a horizontal line.

Owen Bailey

Towns Program Manager



124 South Street #3
Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone : 301-717-1579
Website : www.marylandforestryboards.org

January 20, 2022

GARY G. ALLEN
President

ERIC SPRAGUE
Vice President for
Development

SANDRA SPARKS
Vice President for
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DAVID KEANE
WAYNE LUCAS
JOLI A. MCCATHRAN
BILL REES
DON VAN HASSENT

Re: Support for SB14/HB100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund –
Establishment

Dear Senators and Delegates:

The Maryland Forestry Foundation is pleased to offer strong support for SB14 and HB100. We have worked extensively with the Sustainable Maryland (SM) program since its founding. While other programs offer specific environmental assistance, the SM program provides a framework to help focus the work of local elected officials, municipal staff, and program required Green Team members on actions needed to develop the capacity to manage local sustainability actions that benefit member communities across the state. We are specifically encouraged by the programs highlight of green infrastructure, and its support for the new 5 million tree goal.

Providing permanent financing for this work by establishing a Sustainable Maryland Program Fund would strengthen community efforts by growing this program and ensure all get the assistance needed to develop, fund, and implement the ground level projects that are essential to improving the quality of life in Maryland.

We urge a strong vote yes in support of the establishment of the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

Gary G. Allen, President
Maryland Forestry Foundation
124 South Street #3
Annapolis, MD 21401



January 20, 2022

Re: MD SB0014 / HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Take Notice:

Prince George's County Audubon Society, Incorporated (PGAS), joins other community organizations united in support of the MD SB0014 / HB 0100 and urges a "YES" vote on the bill to establish the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund. This bill to expand and enhance Sustainable Maryland (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 ten years, SM has helped communities build a strong network of active citizens 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.

The SM program has become a primary driver for building community capacity to engage in sustainability projects. While other programs may offer specific environmental services, the SM program framework helps community groups like ours to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues and take advantage of resources already available. As a non-profit committed to supporting local action, it is this aspect of SM's work that Prince George's Audubon Society has experienced firsthand. Over the course of the last two years, PGAS has launched the Audubon Wildlife Habitat Program, which provides no-cost on-site visits to Prince George's County residents in order to support them in transforming their outdoor spaces into habitats friendly to wildlife. Our big-picture goal is to create a Homegrown National Park, yard by yard, to mitigate habitat loss in our county. From the start, Sustainable Maryland has supported our efforts, plugging us into their network to provide us with a connection to like-minded citizens at Friday get-togethers, giving us credibility by offering to count our visits as points towards city sustainability certification, publicizing our fledging program in their newsletter, and including us in plans for a Route One Pollinator Corridor. Many of the contacts we have made over the last two years have been thanks to this SM network. The Audubon

Wildlife Habitat Program has been very successful. Twenty-five trained volunteers conducted 125 consultations in Mount Rainier, Brentwood, Riverdale Park, College Park, University Park, Hyattsville, Cheverly, Greenbelt, Beltsville, and Bowie since last March. PG Audubon looks forward to continued support from SM.

The SM Program Fund will ensure that Sustainable Maryland can continue the framework that brings together disparate groups pursuing new and innovative community-based projects like ours, helping us work together rather than at cross purposes. 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.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth A. Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

President, Prince George's Audubon Society, Incorporated

P. O. Box 1311, Bowie, MD 20718

February 7, 2022

Re: MD HB0100/SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Senators of Maryland Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

The Sustainable States Network (SSN), a network of state-aligned local sustainability programs across 14 states, supports HB0100/SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment.

States are the frontline implementers of major environmental, social, and economic policies and programs. They are large enough to make investments, think regionally, and organize significant and systemic changes. Local governments are more responsive to community needs and are best able to adapt solutions to local variations in preferences and conditions. Most local governments, however, have very limited resources to assess and implement new strategies to address emerging problems. Moreover, when higher levels of government fail to act, focus inevitably shifts to more local actors.

In order to meet the sustainability imperative, states must marshal local forces and scale them up to achieve significant and timely impact. Over the past decade, at least eighteen programs have formed at the state scale that set standards, provide guidance and coordinate the provision of resources in order to promote local action for sustainable transformation. Coordinated by these programs, thousands of local governments across the United States have placed sustainability on the local policy agenda and implemented tens of thousands of discrete sustainability projects within a short span of time.

The kind of change required by sustainability implicates each community, each household, and each individual. Successful solutions to problems at this level of society will need to be rooted in the cultural specificity of the town or region if the people are to be supportive of and involved in such change.

~UNESCO (1997) Educating for a Sustainable Future: A Transdisciplinary Vision for Concerted Action

Like all of the SSN members, Sustainable Maryland focuses on local governments as the primary change agent for sustainable development progress. Sustainable Maryland works to:

- Engage local governments at scale;
- Identify tools, best practices; resources and campaigns to support local action;
- Set standards to provide a framework to guide change;
- Support cities moving from pledges & plans to implementation, by providing data, tools, training, and hands-on technical assistance;
- Develop peer-to-peer city engagement for regional action; and,
- Measure, reward, and track city progress.

By connecting and aligning statewide sustainability programs, SSN enables members to share resources and best practices, foster the success of local sustainability initiatives, and collaborate on projects that advance shared goals with the ultimate vision of building a future where sustainability is the norm for every community.

The Sustainable Maryland program has been a leader in sustainability, not only in Maryland, but in the Sustainable States Network. They have served on the network's steering committee for six years, acted as co-chair for three years, and have been actively engaged in the network's equity, climate change, and

education working groups. They serve as an ambassador for Maryland's sustainability efforts. While Sustainable Maryland has successfully managed an ambitious program that has demonstrated leadership over the years, their biggest challenge remains insufficient funding.

As a network, we have found that statewide sustainability programs are most successful when they have access to adequate funding for staff and the ability to offer municipalities direct funding support. Programs that have achieved close coordination with their respective states and receive financial support are able to increase community participation, advance state goals, and mobilize a network of statewide sustainability champions.

Some of our network's most well-resourced programs include Sustainable Jersey who receives about \$600,000 a year, or approximately 1/3 of its annual budget, from New Jersey State agencies; Minnesota, whose budget includes 1.5 FTE supported by the state; and New York's Climate Smart Communities grant program, which receives about \$10 million a year from the New York State legislature as part of the state's Environmental Protection Fund. These programs are able to provide secure, on-going technical assistance with a focus on comprehensive issues that align with state goals. They act as trusted state partners that are able to translate state-level policies to the local level and serve as a conduit for continued improvement of state-local relationships.

While SSN does not expect to achieve parity of state-level support between SSN members, we do ask that States consider the precedence of similar programs being supported and funded by their respective state governments. SSN members that have more closely aligned with their respective states demonstrate that there is value to the state in such labor-intensive efforts as direct local engagement, broad community outreach and education, and intensive collaboration with volunteer stakeholder committees. These efforts, being undertaken by the Sustainable Maryland program, greatly increase participation in local sustainability programs and enable greater civic engagement throughout the state of Maryland.

By supporting HB0100/SB0014 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment, Maryland codifies their commitment to sustainability and empowers local communities for years to come. In addition, Maryland would join other state leaders in building a future where sustainability is the norm for every community.

We hope you will take this opportunity to support the expansion of this cost-effective, trusted, and beneficial program so that it can continue to provide technical assistance, coordinate local efforts, and encourage the attainment of local sustainability priorities throughout Maryland and beyond.

Sustainable States Network

Lola Schoenrich

Great Plains Institute Vice President
Sustainable States Network Coordinator

Kelly Tyler

New York Clean Energy Communities Program
Manager
Sustainable States Network Steering Committee
Co-Chair 2020, 2021, 2022

Kristin Mroz

Minnesota GreenStep Cities Coordinator
Sustainable States Network Steering Committee
Co-Chair 2021, 2022

Randy Solomon

Sustainable Jersey Director
Sustainable States Network Steering Committee
Member 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

Friday, February 4, 2022

TO: Paul Pinsky, Chair of Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee; and Committee Members

FROM: Michelle Dietz, The Nature Conservancy, Director of Government Relations; and Caitlin Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation & Climate Policy Analyst

POSITION: Support SB 14 – Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 14 offered by Senator Elfreth. TNC is a global conservation organization working to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. In Maryland, our work focuses on delivering science-based, on-the-ground solutions that secure clean water and healthy living environments for our communities, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience in the face of a changing climate. We are dedicated to a future where people and nature thrive together.

SB 14 seeks to establish the Sustainable Maryland (SM) Program Fund. SM is a free and voluntary outreach and certification program that was first established in 2011 to help Maryland communities pursue a sustainable future. Over the past decade, SM has provided communities with a unique framework with which to benchmark local sustainability initiatives, as well as a comprehensive suite of policies, resources, direct support, and incentives designed to help communities advance a broad range of sustainability goals. The program has certified 16 municipal stormwater management programs, assisted 30 communities in creating watershed stewardship programs, developed municipal carbon footprints for 10 communities to establish greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets and goals, and continues to support local WIPs in improving water quality. Impressively, to date the program has been entirely self-funded and has been offered to communities across the state at no cost; however, the program needs state funding support in order to rise up to meet the growing demands and challenges of climate impacts.

Maryland has set ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. As we work to achieve these goals, we need to increase investment in our local communities to implement new strategies that will address emerging problems. We also face challenging water quality issues in the Chesapeake Bay, which Maryland has already invested significant work and resources into tackling. But we can't stop there; local governments need additional support and investment to protect neighborhoods, infrastructure, and resources on the frontlines of climate change.

While SM has successfully managed an ambitious program that has demonstrated leadership over the years, the program's biggest challenge has been insufficient funding. By investing in the SM Program, state leadership can recognize local governments' necessity in building a sustainable future and communities in Maryland can continue to advance environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

TNC commends Senator Elfreth for introducing this bill, which recognizes the importance of investing in sustainability and empowering local governments and communities to combat climate change.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on SB 14.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING, AND PRESERVATION
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SMART GROWTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
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Office of the Dean

College Park, Maryland 20742-1411
301.405.6283 Tel 301.314.5639 FAX
www.arch.umd.edu
www.smartgrowth.umd.edu

January 19, 2022

Dear Senate Education, Health & Environment Committee Members and House Appropriations Committee Members:

The University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation is pleased to offer its strong support of Senate Bill 0014 / House Bill 0100 establishing the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

Established in 2011 as an initiative of the School, the Sustainable Maryland (SM) program has supported communities across the state by helping them pursue a sustainable future. Serving the University's land grant mission, SM provides local governments and community associations with a broad range of support to create just, resilient and economically vibrant communities.

The program has built a broad and strong network of active citizens, with Green Teams working in over half of the municipalities in Maryland.

The SM program connects Maryland communities with the expertise of researchers and students in our School and across the University. Our School has just completed a dynamic new Strategic Plan that calls for us to address society's "big" challenges including climate change; insufficient housing supply, quality, and equity; immigration; creating a diverse and inclusive world; and the impact of digital technology on the social fabric. The School community commits to "strategically working toward solutions for improving our environment and society through innovative, community-engaged practice and research, that utilizes our world class research and scholarship; and preparing our students to tackle these challenges as they enter the professions," and the SM program embodies this commitment and approach to improving our built environment for future generations of Marylanders.

SM staff provide support to local governments and residents with workshops, webinars, regional conferences, and leadership trainings. On a daily basis, the program advises communities on initiatives as diverse as stormwater management, community gardens, renewable energy, urban tree canopy, Buy Local campaign, and smart land use planning. Additionally, the certification element of the program, Sustainable Maryland Certified, has become a branding for towns and cities to demonstrate their "green" credentials and has the potential to be extended to unincorporated communities throughout the State.

The SM program effectively acts as the "sustainability extension" arm of our School, organizing Green Teams, creating peer-to-peer networks and supporting the implementation of projects that benefit communities and further the State's own sustainability goals. It also engages undergraduate and graduate students in local projects where they gather real-world experience working with elected officials, municipal staff, and local residents. Through engaged research and service-learning opportunities, SM serves an important role in meeting the School's and University's commitment as a

Land Grant institution. At UMD, we measure impact in a number of ways; one of the most important is through long-term commitment to Maryland's communities.

The SM program truly provides holistic support to communities in every area of local sustainability. It is the only program doing this type of work, and it has become the trusted source for communities seeking a sustainable future. Support for SM ensures that this work can be grown in both scope and magnitude.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn E Jourdan". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the "Best regards," text.

Dawn E. Jourdan, esq., PhD, AICP
Dean and Professor, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
The University of Maryland



HELPING COMMUNITIES INVEST TODAY FOR A MORE LIVABLE TOMORROW

Sustainable Maryland

is a free and voluntary certification program for municipalities in Maryland that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life.

The mission of Sustainable Maryland is to enhance livability for all Marylanders by helping municipalities choose a direction for their sustainability efforts, improve access to resources needed to implement action, measure their progress, and gain recognition for their accomplishments.

Sustainable Maryland helps communities:

- Gain access to training, tools, funding, and expert guidance;
- Save money and improve the bottom line;
- Conserve resources while promoting community resiliency.

Sustainable Maryland features:

- Free and voluntary program that makes participation easy and accessible
- Comprehensive vision that helps communities plan across multiple priorities
- Customizable menu of concrete actions, allowing communities to select initiatives that best fit their specific needs
- Statewide recognition of certified communities' accomplishments

Getting Started

Please visit the Sustainable Maryland website, www.sustainablemaryland.com, to learn more about the program and how to begin the process of certification. The list of sustainability actions and implementation tools available for your community to consider adopting are provided and explained in detail on the website.

To initiate the certification process, municipalities need to adopt a resolution, ordinance, or proclamation or draft a formal letter stating intent to pursue Sustainable Maryland certification and then register on the website. After registration, municipalities are strongly encouraged to participate in Green Team Training. To achieve certification, municipalities will need to implement the necessary actions to qualify and submit the appropriate documents as evidence that satisfies the Sustainable Maryland requirements.

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Actions for Sustainable Communities:

To become Sustainable Maryland Certified, municipalities must complete and document actions from the list below. To achieve certification, municipalities will need to complete actions worth a **total of 150 points**, including **two Mandatory Actions (M)** and **two of six Priority Actions (P)**, and submit the appropriate documents as evidence that the requirements have been satisfied.

ACTION ITEM	POINTS
COMMUNITY ACTION	
Green Team	
Participate in SM Green Team Training	5
Create a Green Team	10 M
Complete a Green Team Action Plan	10 M
Conduct Community Barriers and Benefits Assessment	15
Build SM Resource Center	5
Participation in MD Green Schools	10
Innovative Demonstration Projects	5 to 20
COMMUNITY-BASED FOOD SYSTEM	
Local Food Consumption	
Local Food Fair	10
Local Food Consumption & Preservation Classes	5 per class
Establish Local Farmers Market	15
Promote Local Farmers Market	5
Local Food Production	
Community Gardens	15 P
Spring Transplant Sale	10
Fall Transplant Sale	10
Establish CSA Drop-off Location	10
Innovative Demonstration Projects	5 to 20
ENERGY	
Municipal Energy Audits	10 (1st bldg), 5 (consec bldgs) P
Residential Energy Efficiency	5 to 20+
Wind Energy Project	10
Innovative Demonstration Projects	5 to 20
GREENHOUSE GAS	
Municipal Carbon Footprint	15 P
Community Carbon Footprint	15
Climate Planning	
Climate Action Plan	10 to 25+
Climate Change Adaptation Element	5
Innovative Demonstration Projects	5 to 20
HEALTH & WELLNESS	
Let's Move	15
Workplace Wellness	
Join Healthiest Maryland Businesses	5
Workplace Wellness Program	5 to 15
Living Well Program	5 per class
Innovative Demonstration Projects	5 to 20
LOCAL ECONOMIES	
Buy Local	
Establish Local Business Directory	10
Promote Local Business Directory	5
Buy Local Campaign	15
Local Business Roundtable	5 per roundtable
Local Business Procurement Notices	10
Economic Analysis of Procurement Practices	15
Local Purchasing Preference Policy	10
Green Business Recognition	
Join Maryland Green Registry	5
Promote Maryland Green Registry	5 points per 2 businesses

Please note: Sustainable Maryland Certified actions and points may be subject to change. Printed on 55% recycled & 30% post-consumer waste paper.

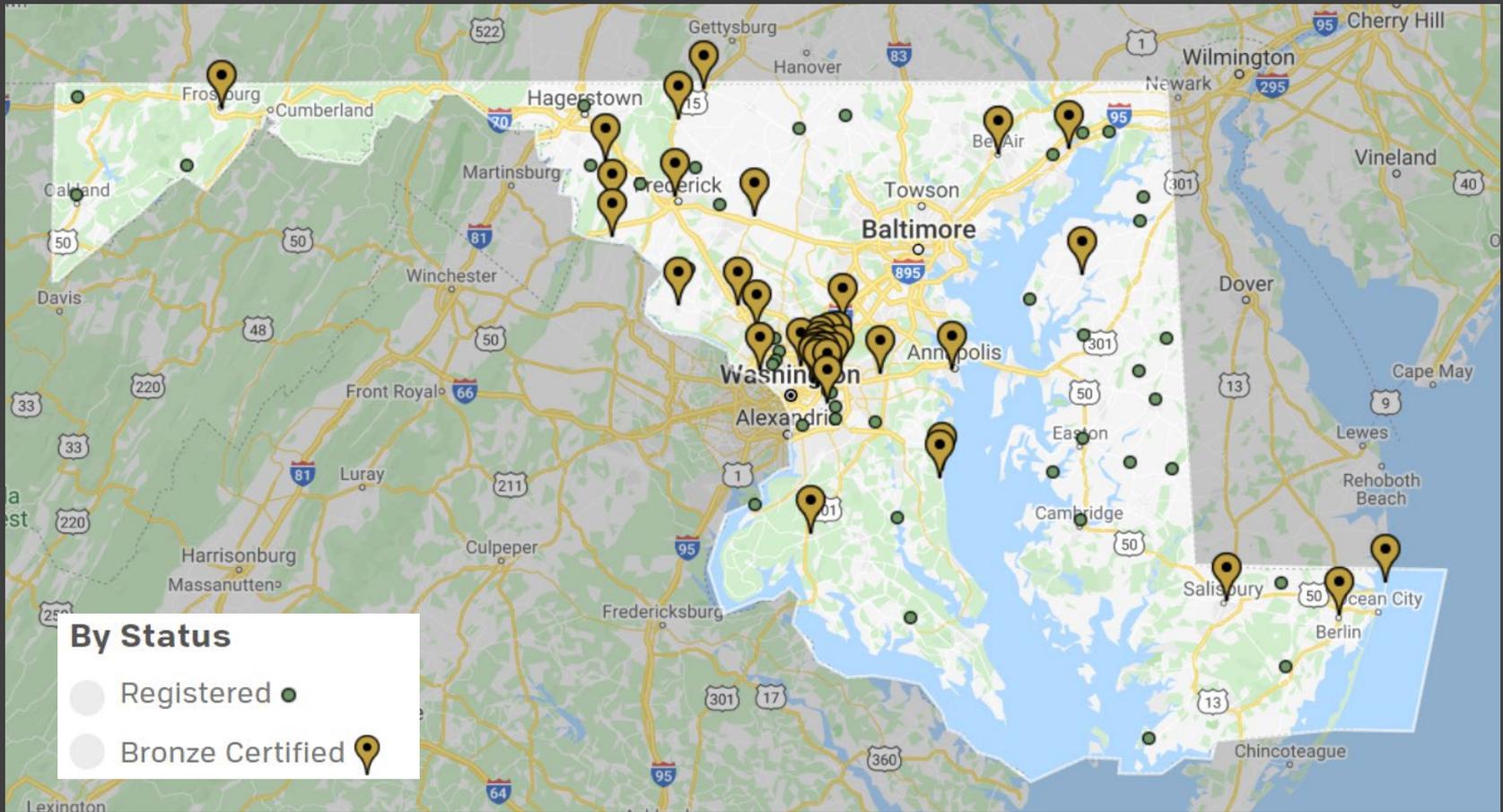
ACTION ITEM	POINTS
LOCAL ECONOMIES (CONTINUED)	
Green Business Certification Program	15
Green Purchasing	
Green Purchasing Policy	15 P
Evaluate Current Purchasing Practices	10
Vendor Preference Statement	10
Purchase Recycled Products	10
Purchase Environmentally Preferable Products	10
Implement Waste Reduction Program	10
Innovative Demonstration Projects	5 to 20
NATURAL RESOURCES	
Watershed Stewardship	
Implement Watershed Stewardship/Pollution Prevention Outreach Program(s)	10
Facilitate Engagement in Existing Watershed Stewardship Opportunities	5 per event
Provide Voluntary Opportunities for Citizen Engagement in Watershed Stewardship	10
Provide Incentives for Watershed Stewardship on Private Lands	15
Create a Watershed Plan	20 P
Stormwater Management	
Stormwater Management Program	15 P
Stormwater Manager/Coordinator	15
Stormwater Fee Structure	20
Septic Management	
Septics System Assessment and Inventory	15
Septics System Management Plan	20
Dedicated Septic System Fund	20
Water Conservation	
Develop a Water Conservation Plan	15
Develop a Water Conservation Outreach Program	10
Tree City USA	
	15
Pet Waste	
Implement a Pet Waste Education Program	5
Develop a Pet Waste Program	5
Adopt a Pet Waste Ordinance	5
Innovative Demonstration Projects	5 to 20
PLANNING AND LAND USE	
Participation in DHCD Sustainable Communities	20
Housing and the Comprehensive Plan	10
Land Preservation	
Conduct Easement Outreach that Encourages Inspection, Evaluation, and Stewardship	15
Build Easement Inventory	10
Innovative Demonstration Projects	5 to 20

P denotes Priority Action M denotes Mandatory Action

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 EMAIL info@sustainablemaryland.com
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ENVIRONMENTAL
FINANCE CENTER



- 85 Participating Municipalities
- 42 Certified Municipalities



HELPING COMMUNITIES INVEST TODAY FOR A MORE LIVABLE TOMORROW

Sustainable Maryland – Proposed Legislation

www.sustainablemaryland.com

Established in 2011 at the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland, **Sustainable Maryland (SM)** is a free and voluntary outreach and certification program that helps Maryland communities pursue a sustainable future. Serving the University's land grant mission, SM provides local jurisdictions with a unique framework with which to **benchmark local sustainability initiatives**, and a **comprehensive suite of policies, resources, direct support, and incentives** designed to help communities advance a broad range of sustainability goals. **To date, the program has been entirely self-funded, and offered at no cost to communities.**

Since 2011, the Sustainable Maryland program has:

- Created and trained more than **70 Green Teams in communities across the state**, from Garrett County to Ocean City
- Directly engaged **54% of the state's 157 municipalities, across 20 counties**
- Designated **27% of the state's municipalities as "Sustainable Maryland Certified"**
- Certified and cataloged over **1,000 individual sustainability actions** taken by SM-Certified communities
- Provided training and education opportunities that have **collectively engaged more than 1,500 elected officials, local government staff, and community members** at:
 - **70+ Green Team Trainings**
 - **12 County-wide Green Team Summits**
 - **19 Regional Leadership Trainings in Western Maryland, Central Maryland, and the Eastern Shore**
- Helped start **6 composting programs** across the state, keeping thousands of pounds of food waste out of landfills
- Installed more than **170 pet waste stations in 17 municipalities** across Prince George's County, which have collectively **kept 30,000 pounds of pet waste out of the Bay**
- Certified **16 municipal stormwater management programs, supporting local WIP implementation and the targeting of investments to the basins with the greatest potential for meaningful water quality improvements**
- Assisted **30 communities with implementing watershed stewardship programming** for residents
- Created the capacity to **help implement state priorities with 76 Green Teams** across the Bay watershed
- Helped identify and secure funding for the **first all-electric Chevy Bolt police vehicle in the United States** (Hyattsville)
- Developed **municipal carbon footprints for 10 communities** to help decision-makers identify the greatest sources of GHG emissions, establish goals, and track progress towards reduction targets.

The proposed Sustainable Maryland legislation aims to:

- Ensure that Maryland communities 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;**
- Enable the **expansion and enhancement of voluntary community sustainability actions** across Maryland, inclusive of a small grants program to incentivize action;
- Help communities implement their chosen actions with help from **program tools, trainings, case studies, and other resources;** and
- **Continue to be recognized statewide, and by their peers,** for their sustainability accomplishments at annual Maryland Municipal League conference.

Program Goal by 2025: At least 90% of Maryland municipalities have active Green Teams

Maryland Municipal League Magazines Featuring Sustainable Maryland Communities

- Breathe: Health, Equity, and the Environment (Fall 2021)
 - <https://www.mdmunicipal.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/639>
- Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (Fall 2020)
 - <http://www.mdmunicipal.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/592>
- Greening the Gray (Fall 2019)
 - <https://www.mdmunicipal.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/550>
- Sustainable Maryland (Fall 2016)
 - <https://www.mdmunicipal.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=387>

SB14_SenElfreth_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Elfreth

Position: FAV

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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800-492-7122 Ext. 3578
Fax 410-841-3156 · 301-858-3156
Sarah.Elfreth@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 9, 2022

Testimony in Favor of SB0014
Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 14 to create an annual appropriation of \$750,000 for the Sustainable Maryland Program. This legislation passed this Committee and the Senate unanimously in the 2020 session before early-adjournment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Sustainable Maryland (SM) Program was first established in 2011 at the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland. SM is a free outreach and certification program that helps Maryland municipalities and communities pursue a sustainable future. SM provides jurisdictions with a comprehensive suite of policies, resources, direct support, and incentives designed to help communities advance a broad range of sustainability goals.

Since its inception, SM has:

- Registered 54% of Maryland's municipalities in the program – with 45 municipalities currently holding the Sustainable Maryland Certified designation (36 of which have recertified at least once).
- Mobilized and trained more than 60 Green Teams in municipalities across the state, from Garrett County to Ocean City.
- Developed local leadership by providing training and education opportunities that have collectively engaged more than 1,400 elected officials, local government staff, and community members across the state.
- Certified and cataloged over 2,200 individual sustainability actions taken by SM- Certified communities.
- Assisted 19 communities with implementing watershed stewardship programming for residents.

Most notably since this Committee last heard this legislation in 2020, the Sustainable Maryland Program has moved to collaborate more with Homeowners' Associations (HOA) throughout Maryland to progress residential sustainable practices, initiatives, and standards.

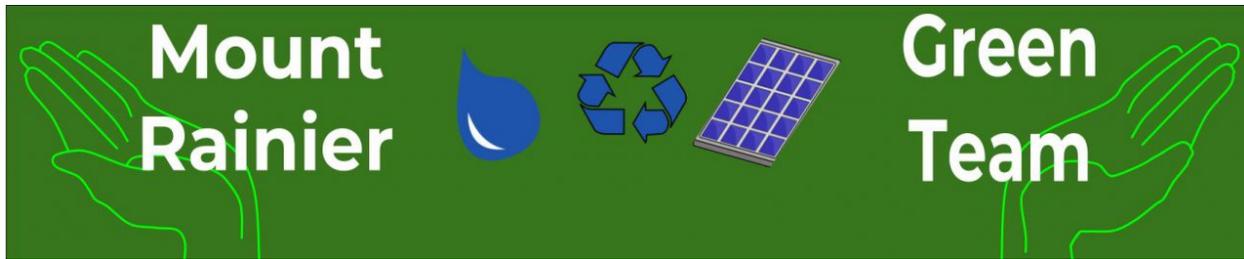
SM has been largely funded through a variety of grants, and, if passed, the guaranteed funding in this bill would greatly support this proven program by ensuring that our communities can fully utilize the full-slate of resources to support sustainability efforts. This Committee knows more than most that we cannot reach our 2025 Watershed Implementation Goals without fully engaging our municipalities and HOAs in our Bay clean up efforts.

As the General Assembly continues on the path to clean energy and the reduction of greenhouse gasses we must ensure that our smaller communities have the tools they need to move towards sustainability as well. Once again, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 14.

Testimony - SB14-HB100 Mount Rainier Green Team.do

Uploaded by: Sarah Lifsey

Position: FAV



January 19, 2022

Re: MD HB 100 / SB 14 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment (Position: Favorable)

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

The Mount Rainier Green Team wishes to express its support of the **MD HB 100 / SB 14** and urges a favorable report and a “YES” vote on the bill to establish **the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund**. Our Green Team and our community have benefited greatly 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.

The City of Mount Rainier has a long history with the Sustainable Maryland program. Mount Rainier was one of the first four municipalities certified through the program in 2012. The City was also the Sustainability Champion in 2015 and was certified for the fourth time in 2021. Thus we have firsthand experience with this unique framework that helps provide our Green Team, elected officials, and staff with the education and technical assistance we need to develop our own capacity to manage local sustainability issues.

There are so many improvements that the city would not have done if not for the Sustainable Maryland Program, in particular ones that allowed us to do our part to improve the Chesapeake Bay. The City recently installed pet waste stations throughout the community that will reduce harmful pet waste from draining into the Chesapeake Bay, a program that was made more affordable through Sustainable Maryland. The City also was able to work with Sustainable Maryland and their University partners to analyze the City’s carbon footprint, which then led to adoption of a climate resolution to put us on the path to net zero emissions. With more and consistent funding the Sustainable Maryland program could provide these types of resources to a greater swath of Maryland.

The program also allows for knowledge transfer between municipalities. For instance, Mount Rainier learned of the successful edible forest in Edmonston and Hyattsville and now we have two successful edible forests. We learned of these activities and others at Sustainable Maryland hosted forums. Through Sustainable Maryland forums we are sharing our successes with other municipalities too, such as our new native pollinator network program that would benefit from much wider adoption. Permanent funding will allow for more consistent opportunities like

these to allow municipalities to develop collaborative efforts, share ideas, and make Maryland more sustainable.

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 Maryland General Assembly should take this opportunity to expand and support this high-performing program in order to create more and stronger Green Teams across the state of Maryland.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lifsey

Sarah Lifsey
Chair
Mount Rainier Green Team

Ashman Testimony- SB0014- Sustainable Maryland Pro

Uploaded by: Tom Lonergan-Seeger

Position: FAV



January 31, 2022

Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland State Senate
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401 – 1991

Favorable Testimony -- SB0014- Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Chair Paul Pinsky, Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB0014, which establishes the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

The Sustainable Maryland (SM) program has been integral to the City of Gaithersburg's sustainability efforts, with its initial certification designation awarded in 2013, and then again in 2016 and 2019. The in-depth certification review process not only provides recognition for actions being taken, but the ongoing technical assistance, resources, and connection to a peer network also inspires the adoption of new best practices and innovative sustainability solutions.

Most recently, SM partnered with Gaithersburg staff to develop and pilot a Residential Action Framework to increase both awareness and participation in watershed stewardship and sustainability activities in homeowners and condominium associations (HOAs/CAs). The SM pilot launched in 2020 has engaged the leadership and residents of 8 HOAs/CAs within the City of Gaithersburg in the creation of Residential Green Teams and the identification of community-based sustainability and watershed protection activities that could be led by HOAs/CAs. In April 2022, SM will host the second Gaithersburg Sustainability Summit for Homeowners and Civic Associations, and a dozen associations have already expressed interest in joining the program for the 6 slots available for the 2022 cohort. As Sustainable Maryland continues to improve its methods for reaching out, finding champions, and recruiting a critical mass of interested residents, more HOAs/CAs are interested in participating, and we see the potential of leveraging this proven framework for enhancing community participation on a number of sustainability-related issues.

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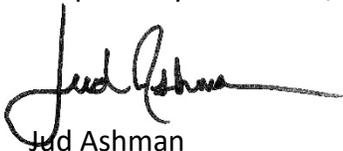
The Sustainable Maryland Certification program affords the City of Gaithersburg with a unique and critical opportunity to benchmark our work on environmental initiatives. It also provides our staff with important information and added motivation to consider new and innovative programs to further our sustainability objectives. Throughout the pandemic, Sustainable Maryland hosted virtual events that brought people together, across jurisdiction boundaries, to share ideas, discuss roadblocks, and provide information to increase the efficiency of small sustainability offices. In these forums, City staff shared information about Gaithersburg's pesticide program and environmental awards programs, while also learning about opportunities to advance our pollinator protection initiative, which resulted in several pollinator friendly gardens being created around the City. Our ecosystem doesn't recognize jurisdictional boundaries, and this connection and networking system has proven critical to advancing our sustainability work, in Gaithersburg and throughout Maryland.

It is with the ongoing support of the SM program and their focus on local efforts that we have been able to strengthen the pathway towards a more Sustainable Gaithersburg. Given the Program's demonstrated success and impact, and the significant environmental challenges facing every community in Maryland, I urge you to support the creation of the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

This funding will enable Sustainable Maryland to expand its reach and provide important sustainability training and resources to more Maryland communities. It has been and will continue to be a cost-effective program to achieve significant public environmental benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jud Ashman", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jud Ashman
Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

SB 14 Sustainable MD Program Fund (Efreth) EHEA 2.

Uploaded by: Barbara Wilkins

Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

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Lieutenant Governor

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Secretary

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SENATE BILL 14 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment (Elfreth)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 9, 2022

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 14 creates a special fund at the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, the purpose of which, in part, is to offer training and education to communities in sustainability science and practice, outreach and engagement, sponsor an annual conference, and provide small grants. The bill also mandates an annual appropriation to the Fund in the amount of \$750,000.

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the \$750,000 mandated appropriation provision that impacts the FY 2024 Budget and subsequent budgets.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which will require spending allocations for FY 2024 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2022.

Changes to the Maryland Constitution in 2020 provide the General Assembly with additional budgetary authority, beginning in the 2023 Session, to realign total spending by increasing and adding items to appropriations in the budget submitted by the Governor. The legislature's new budgetary power diminishes, if not negates, the need for mandated appropriation bills.

Fully funding the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan) will require fiscal discipline in the years ahead, if the State is to maintain the current projected structural budget surpluses. Mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of this education funding priority and the Governor's tax relief proposals.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19. High rates of inflation and workforce shortages may be short lived or persist, thereby impacting the Maryland economy. While current budget forecasts project structural surpluses, the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability. The Department continues to urge the General Assembly to focus on maintaining the structural budget surplus.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
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