



**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.