



February 22, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Senator, Maryland General Assembly  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Senator Pinsky:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and the Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we are writing to offer our support for SB 14 that would provide Sustainable Maryland with a consistent funding stream. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports efforts to prioritize funding for initiatives that promote sustainability and assist the region meeting its meeting its climate and flood resiliency goals, which is consistent with COG's legislative priorities.

Sustainable Maryland is a collaborative effort between the University of Maryland and the Maryland Municipal League to assist municipalities in developing sustainable programs and practices. Currently, Sustainable Maryland does not have enough resources to issue funds directly to local projects. The program has received no core funding for the last eight years and is 99 percent supported through special project grants. The development and maintenance of the core program functions has been underfunded for years. SB 14 would provide essential funding and allow staff to provide on-going training, peer-networking convening, and the ability to focus on comprehensive and technical sustainability projects. It will also allow Sustainable Maryland to provide more direct support for projects in participating localities, totaling more than 85 Maryland municipalities since 2017.

CEEPC and CBPC, on behalf of COG, support SB 14, as it would greatly assist Maryland municipalities in implementing actions necessary for the region to meet its climate and flood resiliency goals. Please contact Jeffrey King, COG Director of Climate, Energy, and Air Programs at (202) 962-3238 or [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Koran T. Saines'.

Koran T. Saines  
Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Policy Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Amy B. Jackson'.

Amy Jackson  
Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources  
Policy Committee