

Date:

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 Bowie 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 Bowie 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. Bowie'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,