

Letter of Support for HB61 - Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program - Establishment

Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The undersigned individuals and organizations respectfully submit this letter of support for HB61 - Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program - Establishment, sponsored by Delegate Shetty. HB61 would establish a statewide Green Business Certification Program, based in part on the successful program currently running in Montgomery County. This bill is identical to the bill that passed unanimously out of the Environment and Transportation Committee and the House during the 2020 session, but was unable to pass out of the Senate due to the early adjournment.

In December 2009, Montgomery County, in partnership with Montgomery College and the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, launched a green business certification program to encourage businesses to implement environmentally-friendly practices. The program is voluntary and robust, and includes participation from a number of diverse businesses from hotels and restaurants to grocery stores and local farms.

The Maryland Department of the Environment requested amendments to this bill last session which would enable Maryland to keep its existing Green Business registry, while enabling the Department to consult with Montgomery County to adopt enhancements to the program. These amendments were added, and the bill was passed out of the House as amended. HB61 is identical to that bill, with the amendments included.

We respectfully request a favorable report of HB61.

- ◆ Maryland Sierra Club
- ◆ Clean Water Action
- ◆ Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corp.
- ◆ Global Communities
- ◆ CEM Design Architects
- ◆ Tricia Swanson; Vice President of Government Relations, Montgomery County Chamber
- ◆ Dan Simons; Co-Owner of Founding Farmers Restaurant Group
- ◆ Douglas Weisburger; Senior Planning Specialist of Sustainability Programs, Department of Environmental Protection, Montgomery County Government
- ◆ Jerry Kickenson; One Green Montgomery
- ◆ George Chmael II; CEO, Council Fire
- ◆ Alice Varon; Executive Director, Certified Naturally Grown
- ◆ Tanya Spandhla; Passion to Seed Gardening
- ◆ Tom Farquhar; Sandy Springs Gardens
- ◆ Susan Cottle Madden; Montgomery College