



University of Maryland
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

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Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SB 658
Supporting

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Hello, my name is Christina Goethel and I am the Chair of the Graduate Student Council at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. In my almost three years of sitting on the council and six years at the institution, interacting with faculty and administration has been generally positive. We have had a good relationship and feel that we legitimately have a voice in decisions at the Center level. It is true, however, that this is not always the case across the system. Indeed in the future this may not be the case at UMCES. We feel that not only current, but future research assistants can highly benefit from institutional. Legal protection from the unlikely, but potentially harmful circumstance of an adversarial relationship between administration, faculty, and graduate research assistants.

The UMCES Graduate Student Council supports legislation to allow Graduate Research Assistants within the system of Maryland the ability to collectively bargain. Although the UMCES GSC has a very positive and beneficial relationship with the administration and faculty, we feel that having future protections in place that would afford graduate students more flexibility in their employment relationship would be positive. Legislation that gives graduate student assistants the full privileges of Maryland employees will be positive for all parties involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina Goethel".

Christina Goethel
Chair, Graduate Student Council
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science