



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB803/ SB835. – *Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in Emissions (FUTURE) Act*

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh, Vice-Chair Chang and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights supports HB803, the Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in Emissions (FUTURE) Act of 2021.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to the future of our planet and the lives of our youth. Youth are leaders in the climate movement for a reason, as the climate they stand to inherit is being damaged irreparably. We must act swiftly and decisively to protect and restore our climate, so that those that will inherit it can enjoy climate stability. We have a lot at stake here in Maryland when it comes to climate change, and the consequences of inaction will fall onto the shoulders of our youth.

It is only right that colleges and universities, as institutions that dedicate themselves to the youth and preparing them for the future, lead the way in greenhouse gas reductions.

This bill makes Maryland Public Universities leaders of sustainability and climate justice by:

- Reducing scope one and scope two carbon emissions to net zero by 2025 and scope three induced emissions by 2035
- Ensuring carbon offsets are of the highest standard
- Requiring that a portion of carbon offset projects benefit Maryland and/or directly benefit environmental justice communities
- Facilitating the sharing of best practices through establishing offices of sustainability at each institution.

We need everyone in Maryland to contribute to our fight for climate stability. Universities that do this not only will make the world healthier, they will attract more students who care deeply about their future.

Show them you care too.

On behalf of the Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights, I urge you to support HB803/SB835.

Nina Beth Cardin
Director, MDEHR