MaryPIRG Students strongly urges senators in the Maryland General Assembly to vote YES on SB835, which will set deadlines for higher education institutions in the state of Maryland to achieve carbon neutrality. This bill will provide necessary solutions for mitigating the deteriorations of our environment, brought on in part by our state's carbon emissions.

Our climate is progressively getting worse as the amount of carbon emissions across the country steadily increases as the days go by. We see the effect greenhouse gases are having on our environment through the rising global temperatures, loss of sea ice, rising sea levels, increased frequency of heat waves, and more. Our planet is dying and there is no denying that. We must take bold action and we must do so now.

The FUTURE Act will provide a clear cut path for progressing towards a sustainable future by requiring higher education institutions in the state of Maryland to achieve net-zero carbon emissions starting July 1st, 2021. With the passing of this bill, Maryland can join states across the country who are also championing for our future.

But for this to happen, the decision lies in the hands of you, our legislators. You all have the opportunity to vote for a bill that can provide a future for your kids and their kids where they will not live in constant fear of what disaster comes next. You all are the change makers - the ones with the power - to do what is better for the masses.

I want to be able to feel hopeful for my future without the looming thoughts that I won't have one. I don't want to tell my kids one day that our planet is dying because our leaders decided against doing anything about it. This is our home and it has provided and cared for us for so long. It is time for us to step up and do the same back.

The passing of this bill will allow for a more sustainable future for everyone and for these reasons, MaryPIRG Students urges you to vote yes on the FUTURE Act.

Sincerely,

Greeshma Anand, *Board Chair of MaryPIRG Students*