

**A Resolution Supporting the MaryPIRG Student Climate Action Coalition's  
HB0803/SB0835: the Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in  
Emissions (FUTURE) Act**

**WHEREAS** the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the governing body for all on-campus students at the University of Maryland (UMD), and

**WHEREAS** RHA has responsibility regarding issues of sustainability on campus given the existence of the Sustainability Committee of Maryland (SCOM), and

**WHEREAS** RHA is committed to creating a more environmentally friendly-campus for its students and our Earth, and

**WHEREAS** MaryPIRG, a statewide student advocacy group with chapters at ten Maryland universities, is dedicated to reducing the impacts of climate change, protecting public health, and strengthening democracy, and

**WHEREAS** carbon neutrality is the act of achieving net zero carbon emissions, making carbon neutrality one of the most efficient ways for large organizations, such as universities, to combat the climate crisis, and

**WHEREAS** MaryPIRG's Student Climate Action Coalition (MSCAC) wrote Maryland House Bill 0803/Senate Bill 0835 (HB0803/SB0835) to push University System of Maryland schools towards carbon neutrality, and

**WHEREAS** HB0803, sponsored by Delegate Jared Solomon of Montgomery County, is currently under review by the Appropriations Committee of the Maryland House of Delegates after its hearing held on Thursday, February 25, and

**WHEREAS** HB0803 is cross-filed as SB0835, which is sponsored by Senator Jim Rosepepe of Prince George's and Anne Arundel County, and will be presented to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee on March 9, and

**WHEREAS** HB0803/SB0835 states that on or before January 1, 2025, each public senior higher education institution shall be carbon neutral for scope 1 direct emissions and scope 2 indirect emissions, and

**WHEREAS** scope 1 direct emissions includes emissions from boilers, central heating plants, power plants located on an institution's campus, vehicles owned by an institution's campus, vehicles owned by an institution, refrigerants and chemicals, and agricultural resources, and

**WHEREAS** scope 2 indirect emissions means emissions resulting from activities affiliated with an institution and that take place at a site that is not owned by or controlled by the institution, and

**WHEREAS** on or before January 1, 2035, each institution shall be carbon neutral for scope 3 induced emissions, and

**WHEREAS** scope 3 induced emissions means emissions produced by sources that are central to an institution's operations and activities, and are not owned or controlled by the institution, and

**WHEREAS** if carbon offsets are used to achieve carbon neutrality, a steadily increasing specific percentage of these offsets must be achieved in Maryland, in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, or through environmental justice offset projects, and

**WHEREAS** HB0803/SB0835 also requires that on or before August 1, 2021, each institution must designate an existing faculty or staff member to implement and monitor the institution's progress, and

**WHEREAS** HB0803/SB0835 states that institutions shall share relevant resources, best practices, and methodologies with one another, and

**WHEREAS** HB0803/SB0835 states that each institution's designated staff member shall meet quarterly to share these best practices and report on the progress made toward meeting the requirements of HB0803/SB0835, and

**WHEREAS** HB0803/SB0835 states that on or before December 1 of each year, each institution shall report to various Maryland General Assembly committees on the institution's climate goals, the types of carbon offsets used by the institutions, examples of the institution's collaborations with other institutions, and a summary of the quarterly meetings required by this bill, and

**WHEREAS** HB0803/SB0835 shall take effect July 1, 2021, and

**WHEREAS** the links to their corresponding documents are as follows: [HB0803](#), [SB0835](#), and their corresponding [Fiscal and Policy Note](#), and

**WHEREAS** MSCAC has several recommendations to help UMD reach this goal that are included in the bill, including the implementation of electric vehicles, increasing energy efficiency, and converting to renewable sources, and

**WHEREAS** the support of representative student groups will be a key aspect to the success of HB0803/SB0835, and

**WHEREAS** the UMD Student Government Association, in addition to student government organizations and students groups at John Hopkins University, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Morgan State University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Salisbury University

91 have already passed resolutions and/or written letters of support demonstrating their collective  
92 support for the proposed bill,

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94 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that RHA supports HB0803/SB0835, and

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96 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that RHA will write a letter of support for  
97 HB0803/SB0835, which will be submitted as written testimony for the March 9 hearing in the  
98 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, and

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100 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that RHA urges the UMD Office of  
101 Government Relations to support the proposed bill, and

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103 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that RHA will send a copy of this resolution  
104 and RHA's letter of support to the UMD Office of Government Relations and relevant decision-  
105 makers as deemed by the Office of Government Relations.

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107 Authored by:  
108 Mel Mader  
109 Senator-At-Large  
110 Residence Hall Association

Approved by:  
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