

Good afternoon Chairwoman McIntosh and delegates of the Appropriations committee.

My name is Reese Barrett, and I'm a very proud Marylander. I was born in Annapolis, and have spent my entire life on the Severn River, crabbing and water skiing and rafting up on the Fourth of July. My family is built on a foundation of sharing time outdoors, and I know a lot of you can say the same.

Currently, I'm a junior at the University of Maryland, and I'm majoring in chemical engineering. I graduated as valedictorian from Severna Park High School in Anne Arundel County, and I'm now a straight-A student and a recipient of both the Banneker/Key (full merit) Scholarship and the Hollings Scholarship. I do research on campus because I plan to earn a PhD and work as a professor.

I've also dedicated hours and hours to climate activism because I don't feel as if I have a choice. I actually came to this hearing straight from a difficult exam on chemical separations, and I have another exam on heat and mass transfer tomorrow, as well as biochemistry next week. That's on top of all of the other responsibilities I have as a student and a friend and a sister and a daughter and a granddaughter. I really don't have the time to be here and shouldn't have to be, but I am, because the climate crisis threatens everything I hold dear, including my river and all of the memories I've made on the water with the people I love the most.

In Maryland, sea level is rising faster than average because our land is also sinking. Communities around the state, including my home in Annapolis, are facing more frequent and severe flooding and storms. Warmer water temperatures cause algal blooms and dead zones, which harm our beloved Chesapeake. I am scared that my hometown will be underwater and my river will be dead before I have the opportunity to share them with my children.

Taking action is not easy or cheap, but what is the cost of inaction? Economists say that it's \$51 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Our universities are in the perfect position to be leaders on this issue for a small fraction of that price. Schools represent both their own researchers who are at the forefront of climate science, and also their students, who are spending tens of thousands of dollars on tuition.

I cannot explain how disappointing and tragic it is that I'm testifying today. The science is clear. When you fail to act, you're failing me, and you're failing your own descendants for generations to come. Who do you want to be remembered as? I hope you choose to leave a legacy telling your children and grandchildren that you love them enough to protect the planet they will inherit. Thank you.

**Organizational supporters:**

SMCM Sustainability Office  
SMCM Student Government Association  
UMBC Sunrise  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
Rebuild Maryland Coalition  
17 for Peace and Justice  
Delight Ministries  
Assateague Coastal Trust  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
Women Indivisible Strong Effective  
Frack Free Frostburg  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
Howard County Indivisible  
Howard County Sierra Club  
Columbia Association Climate change and sustainability advisory committee  
CHEER  
Climate XChange - Maryland  
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/National Parks Conservation Association  
350 Montgomery County  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church  
Environmental Justice Ministry  
Coalition For Smarter Growth  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County  
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign  
MoCo Downcounty Consortium (DCC)  
Potomac Conservancy  
Casa de Maryland  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
Clean Air Prince Georges  
Laurel Resist  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs

Wicomico NAACP  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Chispa MD  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Maryland Poor People's Campaign  
Labor for Sustainability  
The Nature Conservancy  
350 Baltimore  
Maryland Environmental Health Network  
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis  
Talbot Rising  
Adat Shalom Climate Action  
Mid-Atlantic Earth Holders  
Climate Parents of Prince Georges  
Echotopia  
Maryland NAACP State Conference, Environmental Justice Committee  
Oakland Mills HS Climate Activism Club  
Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights  
University of Maryland Graduate Student Government Association  
Sunrise Movement Baltimore  
Sunrise University of Maryland Baltimore Campus  
University of Maryland Baltimore County Student Government Association's Senate  
Johns Hopkins Planetary Health Alliance  
University of Maryland Sustainable Ocean Alliance  
Howard County Climate Action  
Columbia Association Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions