

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0729 – Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying
Reductions in Emissions (FUTURE) Act

Dear Chair McIntosh and members of the Appropriations Committee,

The Protectors of the St Martin River supports the FUTURE Act HB0729.

The University System of Maryland emits more carbon than all other state agencies combined. This bill makes Maryland Public Universities leaders in carbon reductions by:

- Requiring carbon neutrality by 2035
- Establishing an Environmental and Economic Justice Scholarship Fund for in-state students displaced by climate change or from environmental justice communities.
- Facilitating the sharing of best practices and resources by establishing offices of sustainability at each institution.
- Conducting a feasibility and implementation study for a sustainability education requirement for each institution.

Our organization has undertaken numerous efforts to restore healthy waterways in the coastal bays of Maryland, through education of residents in critical areas as to environmentally sensitive land management and through an oyster gardening program to reduce excess nutrients in the coastal bays. The FUTURE act through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will provide a significant contribution to the health and well-being of the coastal bays.

Respectfully,

Joseph Jankowski, Director
Protectors of the St Martin River