

To the Honorable Chair McIntosh and esteemed Delegates Appropriations Committee:

My name is Nancy Barrett and I am an Environmental Science and Policy student at the University of Maryland as well as a life-long resident of Hyattsville, Maryland. My position as a student and a young person growing up in the world we live in today is what has driven me to submit this testimony. I wish that I could say my advocacy for environmentalism was a selfless decision, but if I did I would be lying, or at least not addressing the whole truth. I chose to dedicate myself to this field because I was scared. I *am* scared. And as I have learned more about the extent of our current climate crisis, this fear has only become more deeply embedded within me. I went into environmentalism as a form of self preservation. I was raised with the belief instilled within me that I could be anything, do anything that I could possibly dream of. So when the realities of climate change began to set in – the greenhouse effect explained in 5th grade science class, between chapters on the water cycle and cell biology – I was confused. How could we sit by and do nothing while the very vitality of our planet was called into question? How could we pretend that everything was business as usual as our very futures were disintegrating before our eyes?

I want a future. I want a future for my children, and my grandchildren, just as I am sure you desire the same thing for yours. And, against all odds, I have the outrageously stubborn optimism required to envision a world where this could be possible. But to reach this future, emissions limits are long overdue. We have known for decades that greenhouse gas emissions were altering our global climate. This knowledge was made public in 1988 when Jim Hansen testified before Congress – 12 years before I was even born. The fate of my future was stolen from me long before I came into this world. Now, at 22, it has been 34 years with no significant action on the burning of fossil fuels in this country. The FUTURE Act is a necessary first step to address climate change from the Maryland government's most significant source of greenhouse gas emissions: constituent institutions of the University System of Maryland. Our academic institutions, as a central body of knowledge, must lead us into a just and sustainable future.

I call upon my representatives, as figures appointed by the people and for the people, to advocate for the **Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in Emissions (FUTURE) Act** by adopting a **favorable report of HB0729**.