

Salisbury University Student Government Association
Testimony for HB0729
Appropriations Committee
FUTURE Act POSITION: FAVORABLE

My name is Andrew Wilson and I am the President of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Salisbury University (SU) located on Maryland's beautiful Eastern Shore. I am writing this testimony on behalf of the entire SGA here at SU. To start, I would like to thank Chair McIntosh and all members of the Appropriations Committee for welcoming our testimony on HB0729. I would also like to thank Delegates Solomon, Chang, Fraser-Hidalgo, Korman, Lehman, Shetty, Smith, Terrasa, and P. Young for introducing this legislation which will undoubtedly help create a more environmentally friendly and just society for all Marylanders, and help realize a better world to pass on to all generations to come.

At SU our SGA, under the leadership of our Director of Sustainability Abbi Pettinati, have implemented various campus projects that have helped cut down on waste and bring special attention and care to our environment. Such projects include changing our dining hall's takeout containers to reusable ones and hosting our annual Recycle Madness event, which pits all student organizations on campus in competition with one another to see who can bring the most recyclable materials by weight. We continuously work with campus partners to make Salisbury University an environmentally mindful campus, and with this testimony we hope to codify this work so that long after myself and all of my constituents move on from SU we can rest assured that this mission will not fizzle out.

While the climate crisis should be a key concern for all, we at SU believe it to be a particular and immediate threat to our wellbeing. With global warming leading to rising sea levels and harsher and more frequent weather events, the Eastern Shore, where SU calls its home, sits at sea level and is directly exposed to the most dangerous hand of climate change. We do not have to look back far to see how this hand has affected us. Hurricane Sandy in 2012 put the nearby City of Crisfield completely under water. Furthermore, if the local Ocean City government did not commit tax payer funds to dredging every year then we would not have a beach, much less an Ocean City, to call a part of our home. Without a total commitment to mitigating the impacts of climate change, there will not be an Eastern Shore of Maryland to pass on.

We are all aware that we need to cut our emissions to prevent further damage to the planet and our built environment. Given the immediate action that needs to be taken to mediate the impacts of the climate crisis, the Student Government Association at Salisbury University urges you to give a favorable report for the FUTURE act.

Sincerely,
Andrew Wilson, Salisbury University Student Government Association President