

Good afternoon Chairman Pinsky and senators of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 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 with my siblings and parents. 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, College Park. I graduated as valedictorian from Severna Park High School in Anne Arundel County, and I'm now majoring in chemical engineering with a minor in sustainability studies. I'm a straight-A student and the recipient of both the Banneker/Key Scholarship (a full academic scholarship) and the Hollings Scholarship (awarded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). I do research on campus because I'm hoping to someday earn a PhD in chemical oceanography 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. 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.

It's true that taking action on climate is not an easy or cheap thing to do. But what is the cost of inaction? Economists say that it's about \$50 per ton of CO₂ 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. We are investing in our universities, and they, in return, need to invest in our futures.

Universities understand the science, but there is no clear plan to implement strategies based on their values. UMD is in the process of renewing their contract for their on-campus natural gas plant. There has been no indication that the new 30 year agreement will include meaningful emissions reductions. If schools are not willing to make tangible plans and instead hide behind language of "life-cycle analysis" and "statewide responses," we need a legislative commitment.

Both students and groups around the entire state of Maryland are in support of the FUTURE Act. We have had 2769 students sign on to our petition, and our list of 69 organizational supporters is attached.

As adults, and especially as people in government, you have a responsibility and a moral obligation to leave the world a better place than you found it. I want you to take a hard

look at the cost of inaction, and I want you to tell me that this bill costs too much. It is past time to act, but you can start today, here, by taking real action that leaves a legacy telling your children and grandchildren, people like me, 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