

## Testimony from Henry Hausmann

I am a graduate of the University of Maryland with a PhD in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, working on solutions to sea level rise and climate change. It's work that I love and work that is critical for the future of our state. It's work that I'd like to be fairly treated while

doing. And I am not alone. A supermajority of my colleagues at UMD College Park have signed union authorization cards with the United Auto Workers. We've held rallies and called on the USM Board of Regions to recognize our Union. Now, we're turning to the legislature, to give us the same rights Graduate Assistants across the country already enjoy, including at peer Big 10 institutions, like Rutgers. Here in our own state private Universities, like Johns Hopkins already have a graduate union and continue to achieve excellence in research and teaching. I even fear that the lack of collective bargaining rights for graduate assistants at UMD could have a deleterious brain drain effect on our state. I've heard from highly qualified prospective graduates that the lack of a union at UMD is a serious concern when deciding where to attend graduate school. There's a simple solution: pass this bill. Grant us collective bargaining rights. And then watch the University of Maryland prosper.