



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

March 4, 2010

The Honorable John L. Bohanan, Jr.
House Office Building, Room 350
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

1807
University of Maryland,
Baltimore

1856
University of Maryland,
College Park

1865
Bowie State University

1866
Towson University

1886
University of Maryland
Eastern Shore

1898
Frostburg State University

1900
Coppin State University

1925
Salisbury University

1925
University of Baltimore

1925
University of Maryland
Center for Environmental
Science

1947
University of Maryland
University College

1966
University of Maryland,
Baltimore County

1985
University of Maryland
Biotechnology Institute

Dear Delegate Bohanan:

While I am unable to attend today's hearing on the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences (UMCES) due to a long standing commitment, I wanted to express—on behalf of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents—our strong disagreement with the legislative analysts' recommendation to dissolve UMCES and distribute the individual laboratories to other academic institutions within the USM.

Founded in 1925, UMCES stands as a world leader in coastal and environmental research. Scientists at its three laboratories—Appalachian Laboratory in Frostburg, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons, and Horn Point Laboratory in Cambridge—focus on oceanographic processes, the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, the ecology of living resources, and the causes and effects of climate change. Educational programs include graduate studies, undergraduate research internships, and K-12 environmental education activities for students and teachers. UMCES is also home to the Maryland Sea Grant College. UMCES is, in fact, the only USM institution charged with maintaining a comprehensive program of environmental research, education and service. UMCES' research spans not only Maryland but the globe.

As you know, the USM regularly evaluate the performance and organization of our research institutes. It was just such a review, in fact, that led us to the consolidation of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI). In the case of UMCES, the Board of Regents reviewed operation in 1993, 1995, and 2004. This in-depth review involved external peer evaluations of UMCES as well, all of which were extremely positive. It was determined that UMCES should retain its present structure as a free standing institute reporting directly to the Chancellor.

Given the importance of issues such as the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, and global issues such as climate change, it is easy to understand why the Board

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overwhelmingly supports the decision to keep UMCES operating as is. As a statewide and world-wide leader in research, education, and service, UMCES's impact will only grow more important in the years to come. It would be a great disservice to the citizens of the state and the concerted efforts of the Governor and General Assembly to restore the Bay, if a decision were made to dissolve UMCES. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject the DLS recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of William E. Kirwan in black ink.

William E. Kirwan
Chancellor

cc: House Appropriations Committee Members