



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

March 4, 2010

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing  
11 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 Senator Kasemeyer:

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: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Members