



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM *of* MARYLAND

Monday, October 8, 2018
2018 Maryland Clean Energy Summit
Chancellor Robert L. Caret
(AS DRAFTED)

Good morning. I am very pleased to be here to officially kick-off the 2018 Maryland Clean Energy Summit. I want to thank Geoff Oxnam, Chairman of the Maryland Clean Energy Center Board of Directors, for that introduction. My thanks as well to Katherine Magruder, the Center's Executive Director, for the invitation to join you today.

The Maryland Clean Energy Center is a real asset for the state of Maryland. Not just in terms of energy and the environment, but also economically and in community outreach and service. So, it makes sense that next year MCEC will be moving to the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) in affiliation with the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute.

This is just another example of the critical mass of environmental and energy resources that are uniting in and around the University of Maryland, College Park. And while UMCP stands as a nationally-recognized leader in this arena, the fact is, this emphasis on energy and environmental sustainability can be seen in action on campuses across the USM.

On every campus, High Performance Green Buildings **practices** are now standard, with LEED Gold ratings essentially the norm. Also in the area of facilities, we have significant retooling and renovation. Earlier this year, \$18 million to UMCP to support numerous energy efficiency and energy conservation measures. Also, a \$ 6million project to be completed by next Spring for energy initiatives at the Institute for Bioscience & Biotechnology Research. The role of Maryland Clean Energy Center—and its capacity to issue bonds in relations to these transactions—was very advantageous. And the technical support to facilitate the financing was extremely valuable in moving the project forward in an expeditious manner.

And in term of **education**, campuses are expanding environmental, energy, and sustainability majors, minors, certificates, and graduate programs across the USM.

But it is in the realm of energy related research & innovation that this impact is most profound: Consider Dr. Eric Wachsman and his colleagues at the University of Maryland Energy Research Center and the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute. Their work on Energy Storage & Battery Technology has the potential to be absolutely game changing.

Most of you are very familiar with the ARPA-E program that provides federal funding for advanced energy technology R&D. Researchers at the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute have received more ARPA-E funding than any other academic institution in the nation, with 18 awards to date—valued at just over \$50 million—since ARPA-E was established in 2009.

And the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute is just one of a host of vital research centers that call UMCP home: The Center for Environmental Energy Engineering; The Center for Global Sustainability; The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center; The University of Maryland Energy Research Center; The list goes on.

Beyond the impact of this discovery . . . is the impact of commercialization. Here again, UMCP has a tremendous story to tell. With MIPPS, Incubators, UM Ventures, the Dingman Center, and other assets. At UMCP, discoveries are moving from the bench to the marketplace—being translated and commercialized—cementing leadership in the energy space.

In many ways, I look at the USM and the energy space and I see what I saw years ago with the Biotech sector. A concentration of industry, academia, and federal facilities making Maryland the epicenter of innovation, research, and discovery.

Lastly, I would like to note that the theme of the summit—“Gearing up for the Future: Energy Innovation to Advance Grid Efficiency, Resiliency, and Security”—is both timely and important. Our nation must have a secure power grid for a thriving economy, and cybersecurity is a critical connection in this equation. There is no question that the USM leadership in Cybersecurity has the potential to address that need as well.

Over the next few days, with presentations, demonstrations, and conversations, the 2018 Clean Energy Summit will underscore the fact that the grid of the future starts right here.

Thank you and have a great conference.

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