



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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November 29, 2012

Ms. Kate Richard
Director of Sustainability
Student Government Association
Chair, Student Sustainability Committee
6903 Preinkert Drive, 5514A
College Park, MD 20740-7255

Dear Ms. Richard:

Thank you for your November 15, 2012 letter in which you, the Student Sustainability Committee of the SGA and the numerous other listed student organizations expressed support for the university's climate change initiatives. I wish to express my appreciation for your ongoing and energetic efforts, the wonderful work that the students have accomplished and recognition that our campus goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 is not a clear path.

Since the adoption of the Climate Action Plan in 2009, the campus has indeed made great strides to reduce its carbon footprint. We have collectively undertaken many energy conservation initiatives, ranging from relamping hallways with energy efficient equipment to a \$20 million energy performance contract with Johnson Controls. The university has also led the State with the development of new, renewable power projects as evidenced by the large solar array at the Severn Building and the recent solar installation at Mount St. Mary's University. These efforts coupled with reduced single occupancy commuting and encouraging more on and near campus housing, have allowed us to make progress toward our initial 15% carbon reduction goal by 2012. Of course, this progress has also required changes to the campus culture and individual behaviors, and I am very proud of the progress that we have made as a community.

I understand that the greenhouse gas reduction goals for 2015 and 2020 will be difficult to meet given we are a growing campus. However, I am confident that the university will continue to make great strides forward. As you know, the progress made thus far relied upon more than 40 strategies spelled out in the Climate Action Plan. Recently, the University Sustainability Council, an advisory council to the President, established a Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources Workgroup, chaired by Carlo Colella, Associate Vice President in Facilities Management. The purpose of this workgroup is to review the Climate Action Plan and other possible strategies that will allow us to reach our 2015 and 2020 goals. This workgroup has met on two occasions and will continue its deliberations through the academic year. At that time, they will provide recommendations to the University Sustainability Council and to my office.

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In the meantime, the campus continues to make progress. A second major energy performance contract was just approved by the Board of Regents to improve energy efficiency in athletic facilities; a new, renewable power project was recently approved involving chicken waste as a fuel source; and we continue to encourage sustainable behaviors by the campus community as evidenced by the 100+ offices that are voluntarily participating in the Green Office Program. I assure you that I will continue to focus on the University's commitment to carbon neutrality, and I am excited to see the innovation the campus will bring to reduce global carbon emissions and improve climate change prediction. Upon receiving and approving recommendations from the Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources Workgroup and the University Sustainability Council, I will make them available to you.

Thank you and all of the other student organizations for your interest and efforts in making our institution a model of a green university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wallace D. Loh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a stylized "L".

Wallace D. Loh
President

cc: Robert Specter
Richard S. Lupin
Michele A. Eastman