

Dear esteemed County Council members,

I would like to thank our County Executive, Calvin Ball, for submitting my name to serve on the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board. Environmental Sustainability means so much to me that I studied it for 7 years in college, got two degrees, and I have spent the last 15 years volunteering in the field. I love "Mother Nature", but we all know that she is suffering. Lending a hand, with the knowledge that I have attained, is the least that I can do to help our beautiful county, and even our state.

About myself: I am the current Miss Maryland Earth, and a middle school science teacher. I started the flagship recycling program at our school, and I take part in teaching the Stem club and the Environmental Club. While living in Florida, I taught mangrove restoration for the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves during my time as Miss Florida Everglades, with Miss America. I am a mom to 5 fish tanks, and I drive a FlexFuel vehicle, to and from school, to practice what I preach. I worked, and fundraised, for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for two years, where I even received a Best "Urban BMP in the Bay" Award for one of my rain garden designs, at a Howard County apartment complex. I volunteered at the National Aquarium for 4 years teaching people, from around the globe, about our beautiful bay. While volunteering, I attended a Top 50 private university, the University of Miami. Sorry Terps fans, I'm a Hurricane. My undergraduate studies were in Marine Affairs and Policy with a minor in Ecosystem Science and Policy, and my Master's studies were in Marine ecosystems and Society. I won the Graduate Studies Service Award for my volunteer work on, and off of, campus. I was chosen as a Clinton Global Initiative "commitment maker" for my undergraduate project in raingarden phytoremediation, and was chosen as one of 20 Women in Global Policy for the Public Leadership Education Network in DC. In 2015 I was named Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. My dream job has always been to work on a panel as a policy maker, working to protect our fish and marine mammal stocks, and I would be honored to have this job here in Howard County, working with you, and for you. I believe that my background in service and education would serve me well to continue developing our county Green initiatives and Sustainability policies. I would like to thank Calvin Ball for always believing in me, and supporting the dreams, and goals, of young Howard County citizens. When you open doors for the next generation, you open doors for OUR future. Thank you for doing just that.

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