



May 27, 2021

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kaine,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports George Mason University's submission of a Congressionally Directed Spending request for consideration and inclusion in the Energy Water Appropriations bill under the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) account. George Mason University is a contributor to the broader Arlington community and has been a member of the Chamber for more than 40 years.

The Commonwealth benefits from our region's expanding higher education institutions, and especially their partnerships for cyber, computer science, and technology education, such as George Mason University's Institute for Digital InnovAtion (IDIA). The new IDIA-HQ in Arlington will serve and attract innovators, entrepreneurs, and the community, along with George Mason University's faculty and students. The building is planned to be net-zero ready and to achieve additional sustainability benchmarks to promote sustainability for its occupants and the broader Arlington and Virginia communities.

George Mason University needs additional resources to support the addition of a solar array to the IDIA-HQ and additional off-site renewable energy sources to achieve actual net-zero consumption of energy. The university will use the requested funding to acquire infrastructure for a pilot scale proof of concept on south façade of building and to purchase the photovoltaic panels to compete the solar array. They will also make data collected on building performance available in real-time to the public to support the body of research and understanding of net-zero design and performance.

We thank you for your consideration of these projects, and we encourage a favorable response to George Mason University's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO