

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY IN THE
COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

WHEREAS, environmental security is a broad and diverse field of study and practice that draws upon multiple academic disciplines and professions to address threats to human safety and prosperity from global population growth, resource availability and access, and environmental shifts including climate change; and

WHEREAS, these multiple and diverse disciplines and professions are not found within one academic department but could be organized within the administrative structure of a school within the College of Natural Resources and Environment; and

WHEREAS, the proposed School of Environmental Security enhances the university's ability to educate and empower faculty, students, and partners to provide meaningful contributions to a more secure Commonwealth, nation and globe; and

WHEREAS, the proposed School of Environmental Security supports the mission of Virginia Tech to serve the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world community through the discovery and application of solutions to increasingly common environmental threats and disturbances; and

WHEREAS, the proposed School of Environmental Security will contribute a critical component to Virginia Tech's emerging emphases on national security, cyber security, and related security initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the proposed School of Environmental Security supports the mission of the university and the College of Natural Resources and Environment with continued emphasis on professional graduate education, applied research, and active engagement with stakeholders in the Greater Washington, D.C. metro area and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the proposed School of Environmental Security supports the land-grant mission of Virginia Tech in the discovery and dissemination of knowledge about managing environmental threats to human society, infrastructure, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the proposed School of Environmental Security will enhance the stature of Virginia Tech as an internationally recognized university for teaching, training, and research scholarship in environmental security; and

WHEREAS, the proposed School of Environmental Security will provide a unified identity within the College of Natural Resources and Environment and within Virginia Tech, and will be the only school of its kind in the nation; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the establishment of the School of Environmental Security within the College of Natural Resources and Environment be approved and the proposal forwarded to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) for approval, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) for notification. The School of Environmental Security will be in effect upon approval by SCHEV.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Visitors approve the establishment of the School of Environmental Security in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

June 8, 2021