

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 33

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By: **Delegates Conway, Taylor, W. Baker, Bartlett, Bohanan, Boschert, Boutin, Bozman, Brinkley, Cadden, Cane, Clagett, Crouse, Donoghue, Eckardt, Edwards, Elliott, Glassman, Hecht, Hubbard, Hutchins, James, Klausmeier, Linton, McClenahan, Mitchell, Montague, Morhaim, O'Donnell, Owings, Petzold, Redmer, Rosenberg, Rosso, Rudolph, Schisler, Shank, Snodgrass, Sophocleus, Stern, Stull, ~~and Wood~~ Wood, Kach, Krysiak, Love, Moe, Pendergrass, and Walkup**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2002
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations
Re-referred to: Economic Matters, February 25, 2002

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 20, 2002

RESOLUTION NO. 21

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Ethanol Production in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of urging certain State agencies to provide financial and technical
4 support for the production of fuel grade ethanol production in the State; and
5 requiring the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Business and
6 Economic Development, and the Maryland Energy Administration to submit a
7 certain report on or before a certain date.

8 WHEREAS, Ethanol is a domestic and renewable fuel produced from grain
9 crops and other biomass sources that can replace petroleum to increase our energy
10 security and reduce our dependence on imported oil and fossil fuels; and

11 WHEREAS, When ethanol is added to petroleum fuels it reduces carbon
12 monoxide emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, urban air pollution, water pollution,
13 waste disposal, acid rain, and smog, and, at the same time, does not adversely affect
14 the nitrogen oxide levels or the performance of motor vehicles; and

15 WHEREAS, Ethanol is a flexible, environmentally friendly fuel that can be used
16 as a 10% blend (E10) to run in any vehicle to boost the octane level of gasoline, as an
17 oxygenate to replace methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), or simply as an extender to
18 displace foreign oil. It can also be used as an 85% blend (E85) as an alternative fuel
19 which will run in a large number of commercially available flexible fuel vehicles, as a

1 source of hydrogen for fuel cells, blended with diesel to reduce sulfur levels, and as an
2 aviation fuel; and

3 WHEREAS, A recent study shows that a barley-based ethanol plant is feasible
4 for Maryland. Ethanol production benefits the economy by providing an additional
5 cash crop for Maryland farmers, creating new jobs in rural areas, reducing the
6 dependency on foreign petroleum, therefore, reducing the trade deficit, and lowering
7 health care costs associated with toxic emissions; and

8 WHEREAS, The Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the
9 Environment have determined that cover crops are one of the most effective Best
10 Management Practices to reduce nitrogen loading into the Chesapeake Bay. A small
11 grains ethanol plant will expand the acreage of barley and other small grains, which
12 are excellent cover crops that utilize residual nitrogen thereby reducing agricultural
13 runoff into the Chesapeake Bay and coastal bay watershed; and

14 WHEREAS, The federal government has established certain policies to expand
15 the use of clean burning, renewable, domestic fuels, like ethanol, and is considering
16 further incentives to increase the use of renewable energies; and

17 WHEREAS, The Governor has expressed his support for renewable energy and
18 alternative fuels in his recent Executive Orders on Energy Conservation and
19 Efficiency and Clean Power, Green Buildings, and Energy Efficiency; and

20 WHEREAS, Other states have benefitted from investments and policies
21 designed to foster the development of an ethanol production industry; and

22 WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly wishes to support the
23 construction of a fuel grade ethanol plant in Maryland and is willing to support
24 financial assistance for the construction of the plant; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That ethanol
26 production could provide significant contributions to the State's environment, energy
27 security, and economy. The General Assembly urges the Department of Business and
28 Economic Development, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the
29 Environment to provide technical assistance and financial support for the
30 development of a business plan for an ethanol industry in Maryland; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Business
32 and Economic Development, and the Maryland Energy Administration, in conjunction
33 with the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, shall report to the General
34 Assembly on or before December 1, 2002, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
35 Government Article, on measures, such as production credits, construction bonds or
36 other incentives that would attract producers to develop an ethanol production plant
37 in Maryland that will be fully on line and operating at capacity in 2004 the feasibility
38 of developing an ethanol production facility in Maryland, including examination of
39 proposed operational structures, financing, State incentives, and other matters
40 related to proceeding with development of the facility; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
2 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
3 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
4 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.