

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23

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M3

1999 Regular Session  
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By: **Delegate Taylor**

Introduced and read first time: February 26, 1999

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Kyoto Protocol - Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the United States Senate to withhold its advice and  
4 consent from the Kyoto Protocol unless developing nations commit to limiting  
5 greenhouse gas emissions.

6 WHEREAS, An increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide and other  
7 "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere may be causing solar heat to be trapped close to  
8 the surface of the Earth and average temperatures to increase worldwide; and

9 WHEREAS, This increase in greenhouse gases may be attributable to the use of  
10 fossil fuels; and

11 WHEREAS, A significant increase in global temperatures could have disastrous  
12 effects on the Earth's environment, including a dramatic increase in sea levels, severe  
13 weather events, wildlife habitat destruction, and property destruction; and

14 WHEREAS, Some disagreement exists within the scientific community over the  
15 extent to which global warming is occurring, the extent to which it is being caused by  
16 human activities, and the extent of harm it is causing the environment; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States participated in an international conference on  
18 global warming in Kyoto, Japan in December of 1997; and

19 WHEREAS, The Kyoto conference adopted a treaty known as the Kyoto  
20 Protocol, that would require the United States to reduce emissions of greenhouse  
21 gases by seven percent, the European Union to reduce emissions by eight percent, and  
22 Japan to reduce emissions by six percent below 1990 levels by the year 2012; and

23 WHEREAS, The imposition of such emissions reductions could impose  
24 significant costs on the coal industry, the electric utility industry, and other industries  
25 of importance to Maryland's economy and consumers; and

26 WHEREAS, The Kyoto Protocol does not include limits on greenhouse gas  
27 emissions in developing nations; and

1 WHEREAS, An international conference in Buenos Aires scheduled for  
2 November 1998 was to address the issue of emissions limitations for developing  
3 countries; and

4 WHEREAS, Many developing nations have few or no pollution reduction  
5 controls; and

6 WHEREAS, If similar reductions are not imposed in developing nations, the  
7 imposition of the Kyoto Protocol emissions reductions could put the economy of  
8 Maryland and the United States at a severe competitive disadvantage because of the  
9 increase in the cost of doing business; and

10 WHEREAS, The global environmental impact of pushing existing  
11 manufacturing activity from Maryland and the United States to developing nations  
12 would be counterproductive to the stated goals of the International Conference on  
13 Global Warming; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the United  
15 States Senate is respectfully urged to withhold its advice and consent from the Kyoto  
16 Protocol unless developing nations commit to limiting greenhouse gas emissions; and  
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
19 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.  
20 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;  
21 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin,  
22 Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and  
23 Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.