

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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By: **Senator Hollinger and Baltimore City Senators, Baltimore County  
Senators, and Anne Arundel County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999

Assigned to: Finance

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Support for the Maersk/Sea-Land Proposal Serving the Port of Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of expressing the General Assembly's support for the Maryland Port  
4 Administration, and its participation in the Maersk/Sea-Land proposal which  
5 will aggressively grow the Port and enhance Maryland's economic vitality.

6 WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore impacts the daily lives of hundreds of  
7 thousands of citizens in Maryland and beyond; and

8 WHEREAS, The shipping industry is a major contributor to the economic health  
9 of the State of Maryland and the nation, generating substantially in excess of \$1.3  
10 billion each year to Maryland's economy; employing 45,000 Marylanders, including  
11 18,000 directly in port jobs; contributing \$141 million in State and local taxes  
12 annually, and \$400 million in United States Customs receipts; and

13 WHEREAS, With the maritime industry undergoing revolutionary operational  
14 changes, the port industry has become extremely competitive, with all ports striving  
15 to attract and retain shipping lines, cargo shippers, and other opportunities related to  
16 the movement of cargo; and

17 WHEREAS, Since 1683, maritime activities on the Patapsco River have been  
18 the source of economic benefits for this region and led directly to the founding of  
19 Baltimore Town, a major economic engine of the State of Maryland, for nearly three  
20 centuries; and

21 WHEREAS, Today a wide variety of Maryland industries depend on the Port  
22 and its continued success to move cargo safely and efficiently through its terminals;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore is under consideration as the United States  
25 Northeast load center for the global containership partnership of Maersk Inc. and  
26 Sea-Land Services, Inc., two ocean carriers which operate jointly through a vessel  
27 sharing agreement; and

28 WHEREAS, Maersk and Sea-Land, which compose the largest container  
29 operator in the United States, have indicated they would handle volumes reaching as

1 many as 550,000 containers annually, with some 10 ship calls weekly at their  
2 Northeast load center; and

3 WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore has excellent cargo facilities for  
4 containerized cargo, a 50 foot channel, and a long-term strategic dredging plan that  
5 assures Maersk/Sea-Land that the port can accommodate deep-draft ships; and

6 WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore is situated in the fourth largest consumer  
7 market in the nation and is well positioned to accommodate large volumes of cargo  
8 locally and to the Midwest, Philadelphia, Washington, and New York markets; and

9 WHEREAS, Baltimore offers excellent intermodal, highway, and rail  
10 connections, including the benefits of two Class I railroads, CSX and Norfolk  
11 Southern, that can offer a greater range of service to more locations; and

12 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has made substantial investments in the  
13 Port of Baltimore by maintaining its shipping channels and developing  
14 state-of-the-art facilities; and

15 WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore, labor organizations, the Maryland Bay  
16 Pilots, and the Port Community have all worked together to bring Maersk/Sea-Land  
17 to the Port of Baltimore; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
19 General Assembly supports the Port of Baltimore's initiative to grow cargo by  
20 aggressively participating in the effort to secure Maersk/Sea-Land business; and be it  
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That to the extent possible, sufficient funding be allocated to the  
23 Port of Baltimore in order to make the necessary physical improvements to  
24 accommodate the substantial increase in business generated by Maersk/Sea-Land;  
25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That Governor Parris Glendening and the Maryland Department  
27 of Transportation, the Port of Baltimore, and the Department of Business and  
28 Economic Development have the full support of the General Assembly in their  
29 negotiations with Maersk/Sea-Land in order to grow the Port of Baltimore and  
30 Maryland's economic vitality; and be it further

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