

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**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2002

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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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 Business and Economic Development to submit a  
6 certain report on or before a certain date.

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, The Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the  
27 Environment have determined that cover crops are one of the most effective Best

1 Management Practices to reduce nitrogen loading into the Chesapeake Bay. A small  
2 grains ethanol plant will expand the acreage of barley and other small grains, which  
3 are excellent cover crops that utilize residual nitrogen thereby reducing agricultural  
4 runoff into the Chesapeake Bay and coastal bay watershed; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the Department of Business and Economic Development  
23 shall report to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2002, in accordance  
24 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on measures, such as production  
25 credits, construction bonds or other incentives that would attract producers to develop  
26 an ethanol production plant in Maryland that will be fully on line and operating at  
27 capacity in 2004; and be it further

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