

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 33

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2002 Regular Session  
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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

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

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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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.