

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

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M1

2003 Regular Session  
3r1399  
CF 3r1398

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By: **Delegate McIntosh (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee) and  
Delegate Wood (Chesapeake Bay Commission)**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Sewage Treatment Plants - Nitrogen Reduction Technology - Federal**  
3 **Funding**

4 FOR the purpose of urging the Congress of the United States to enact certain  
5 legislation in support of certain funding for the installation of certain nitrogen  
6 reduction technology in certain sewage treatment plants.

7 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are national treasures that  
8 play a vital role in many sectors of Maryland's economy, including the commercial  
9 seafood, recreational fishing, and tourism industries; and

10 WHEREAS, While significant progress has been made in restoring the  
11 Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, they remain in a significantly degraded  
12 condition; and

13 WHEREAS, Nitrogen pollution, the most serious problem facing water quality  
14 in the Bay today, results in excessive algae growth that clouds water, depletes oxygen,  
15 and severely impacts vital bay grasses, young fish, and crabs; and

16 WHEREAS, Maryland is a signatory to the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, in  
17 which the State pledged significant reduction of nitrogen pollution, a reduction that  
18 would be sufficient to remove the Chesapeake Bay from the United States  
19 Environmental Protection Agency's impaired waters list by 2010; and

20 WHEREAS, Upgrading sewage treatment plants, which currently contribute 61  
21 million pounds of nitrogen annually to the Bay, is the single most cost-effective step  
22 we can take to reduce significantly the amount of nitrogen pollution; and

23 WHEREAS, Sewage treatment plants in Maryland discharge up to 25  
24 milligrams of nitrogen per liter of wastewater, while current technology allows that  
25 discharge to be reduced to only 3 milligrams per liter; and

26 WHEREAS, United States Senators Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski have  
27 introduced legislation to provide funding to allow Bay watershed sewage treatment  
28 plants to reduce their nitrogen pollution substantially by installing nitrogen

1 reduction technology at no cost to the plants, the State, or ratepayers; now, therefore,  
2 be it

3       RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
4 Congress of the United States be urged to enact legislation during the 108th Congress  
5 in support of funding for the installation of nitrogen reducing technology by  
6 Chesapeake Bay watershed sewage treatment plants; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
8 Legislative Services to Vice President Richard B. Cheney, President of the United  
9 States Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Speaker J. Dennis  
10 Hastert, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, House Office  
11 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A.  
12 Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives  
13 Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R.  
14 Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and  
15 Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the  
16 Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V.  
17 Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Michael E.  
18 Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.