
By: **Delegate V. Clagett**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Chesapeake Bay - Cleanup and Restoration - Federal Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the President of the United States to reconsider his
4 recently released budget proposal and maintain the current levels of federal
5 funding for Chesapeake Bay cleanup and restoration efforts, such as sewage
6 treatment plant upgrades, oyster restoration, and other existing and beneficial
7 programs that are designed to improve the health of the Bay.

8 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is part of Maryland's heritage and culture and
9 plays a vital role in many sectors of Maryland's economy, including the commercial
10 seafood, recreational fishing, and tourism industries; and

11 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in North America, and
12 the Bay and its tributaries are a national treasure; and

13 WHEREAS, Other national treasures, such as the Great Lakes and the
14 Everglades, receive 2 to 10 times respectively, more federal funding than what is
15 afforded the Bay; and

16 WHEREAS, While significant progress has been made in restoring the health of
17 the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, they remain in a significantly degraded
18 condition; and

19 WHEREAS, Oysters serve as natural water filters and current Bay oyster
20 population is at only 2% of historic levels; and

21 WHEREAS, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 275
22 million pounds of nitrogen enter the Bay every year and in order to make substantial
23 progress in Bay restoration, there must be a reduction of at least 110 million pounds
24 of nitrogen per year; and

25 WHEREAS, Maryland is a signatory to the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, in
26 which the State pledged significant reduction of nitrogen pollution to improve the
27 health of the Bay, with federal funds being an essential part of that process; and

28 WHEREAS, The federal budget proposed by the President of the United States
29 decreases funding that is vital to continue cleanup and restoration efforts that play an

1 important role in improving the health of the Bay, such as a 22% cut to the funding for
2 upgrading sewage treatment plants and 86% cut in funding for oyster restoration;
3 now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
5 President of the United States be urged to reconsider his budget proposal regarding
6 the Chesapeake Bay and maintain current levels of federal funding for Chesapeake
7 Bay cleanup and restoration efforts, such as sewage treatment plant upgrades, oyster
8 restoration, and other existing and beneficial programs that are designed to improve
9 the health of the Bay; and be it further

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