
By: **Delegate V. Clagett**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 19, 2006

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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

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

4 WHEREAS, The federal budget proposed by the President of the United States
5 decreases funding that is vital to continue cleanup and restoration efforts that play an
6 important role in improving the health of the Bay, such as a 22% cut to the funding for
7 upgrading sewage treatment plants and 86% cut in funding for oyster restoration;
8 now, therefore, be it

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

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