

support a proposal by the Board of Natural Resources that material dredged in this operation be dumped in the test area of Aberdeen Proving Grounds where the effect will not be damaging to the marine life and vegetation of the waters of this State.

WHEREAS, Chesapeake Bay and the many rivers and tributaries which flow into it constitute our greatest natural asset, affecting materially the economy of our State and providing our people with sport and healthful recreation as well as attracting people from without our State by the thousands, thus contributing to the economy of the State as a whole and particularly to the many local subdivisions located along the Bay, its rivers and tributaries; and

WHEREAS, Anything which might be done that would have the effect of polluting the waters of the State or in any way causing damage or harm to the marine life and vegetation thereof would seriously curtail the enjoyment of such waters, would greatly diminish their commercial value and would thus have a very detrimental effect upon the economy of the state and of the many local subdivisions located along the Bay, its rivers and tributaries; and

WHEREAS, The Army Corps of Engineers is now in the process of dredging large quantities of sand, silt and mud from the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and from the ship channel leading from such canal to Baltimore, and despite the opposition of the Maryland Board of Natural Resources and many protests from conservationists and other interested citizens, said Army Corps of Engineers proposes and intends to indiscriminately dump such sand, silt and mud into the Chesapeake Bay, thus endangering the marine life and marine vegetation in the entire Bay area and particularly in the rivers and tributaries of the upper Bay; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Natural Resources has proposed a reasonable and practical solution to the problem caused by the dredging undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers in that it proposes that the sand, silt and mud so dredged be dumped in the test area of Aberdeen Proving Grounds, where little or no harm would result to or injuriously affect the marine life and vegetation of the waters of this State or adversely affect the recreational facilities thereof; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland stands to suffer a far greater economic loss from the proposed manner of disposing of the material dredged than the additional cost of properly disposing of it would represent; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland owns the bottom waters and floor of the Chesapeake Bay and the preservation of this, its greatest natural asset, is vital to its economy, and its concern in the matter is entitled to respectful consideration; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That it fully endorses the position taken by the Board of Natural Resources on the question of the disposal of dredged material by the Army Corps of Engineers and fully endorses the insistence by such Board that an appropriate and sufficient area be set aside in the Aberdeen Proving Grounds reservation for the disposal of such material; and be it further