

additional lending mechanisms in order to support start-up needs of resource based industries, and thus the establishment of a finance development authority is not recommended at this time; and

WHEREAS, Although the original charge of the Task Force on Resource Based Industry in Maryland has been accomplished and that task force sunsets as of January 31, 2002, there is still a great need for government attention to several areas that are integral to the continued operation and success of rural industries; and

WHEREAS, In order to maintain resource based industries as the backbone of the rural economy, State effort should now turn to other development concerns such as public education on the Statewide benefits of rural-based industry, better communication between business operators and State agencies, innovation in production techniques and technology transfer, and entrepreneurial training in management and marketing skills; and

WHEREAS, Given the education and perspective that task force members have acquired over the term of the Task Force on Resource Based Industry in Maryland, it is their unanimous recommendation that a new task force be fashioned in order to carry forward the State's support and enhancement of economic growth opportunities for rural industry; and

WHEREAS, It is therefore necessary and appropriate to reconfigure the first task force appointed in this area, to expand the areas of expertise represented in the membership, to change the name of the task force and to redefine its charge, and to create the Task Force on Resource Industry Business Development; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Task Force on Resource Industry Business Development.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following 28 members:

(1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) two members of the Maryland House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) (i) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the Secretary's designee; and

(ii) three economic development officials from rural counties, selected by the Secretary of Business and Economic Development as follows:

1. one from the Eastern Shore of Maryland;
2. one from the Western Shore of Maryland; and
3. one from Southern Maryland;

(4) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;