

rare tall spearwort, and the site harbors significant mature stands of beech, oak, white pine, tulip poplar, pin oak, sycamore, sweet gum, and red maple trees; and

WHEREAS, The Ft. Meade site provides excellent habitat for populations of bobcats, wild turkeys, beaver, flying squirrels, deer, and fox and includes over 50 species of amphibians and reptiles, 35 species of mammals, and 250 species of birds; and

WHEREAS, The Patuxent River Policy Plan adopted by all seven Patuxent River counties and approved by the Maryland General Assembly calls for protection of forested and wetland acreage along the Patuxent River and for management areas up to 1/4 mile inland from the River; and

WHEREAS, There are at least six archaeological sites and 32 cemeteries on the 9,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, The area around Ft. Meade has been extensively developed or is planned for extensive development, including 30,000 new housing units in the Odenton area; and

WHEREAS, The County Executives of Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Howard Counties and the Mayors of Laurel and Bowie have all expressed strong support for the addition of the 9,000 acres to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and keeping the vast majority of land as open space, as does the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Sierra Club, the Severn River Association, and the Trust for Public Land; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has requested the Secretary of ~~the Army~~ Defense to transfer the 9,000 acre site at Ft. Meade to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for addition to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center to be kept in open space for wildlife management, research, and education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the U.S. ~~Army~~ Department of Defense is requested to transfer the entire 9,000 acre Ft. George G. Meade tract to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for addition to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and to keep the entire acreage in open space for wildlife management, research, and education, and that existing uses on the entire acreage be continued for: the Tipton Airfield; the landfill in the northeast corner; the shooting ranges; and buffers for the National Security Agency; and be it further

RESOLVED, That it is the ~~sense~~ consensus of the General Assembly of Maryland that the ecological uniqueness of the 9,000 acre site and the significant forest, wetland, plant, and wildlife values be protected on this land in perpetuity, including the entire 6,900 acre wooded tract, by transfer of the 9,000 acres to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Royden P. Dyson, Helen