

WHEREAS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ASKED THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO WORK WITH THE AFFECTED STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INTERESTED FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PREPARE A PROGRAM FOR HIS CONSIDERATION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR CLEANING UP THE RIVER, PROTECTING ITS NATURAL BEAUTY AND PROVIDING ADEQUATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, TO WHICH END THE SECRETARY ESTABLISHED THE FEDERAL INTERDEPARTMENTAL TASK FORCE ON THE POTOMAC; AND

WHEREAS, THE GOVERNORS OF THE STATES OF MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA AND THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ESTABLISHED THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES; AND

WHEREAS, IT HAS BECOME APPARENT TO ALL PARTIES THAT, ALTHOUGH MANY STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES HAVE AN INTEREST IN OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE OR MORE ASPECTS OF THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN, NONE HAS THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE THE BROAD, CONTINUOUS GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT ON A REGIONAL BASIS NECESSARY FOR THE MOST EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF THESE RESOURCES; AND

WHEREAS, THE WISEST AND MOST EFFICIENT USES OF THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES OF THE POTOMAC RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES MAY BE DETERMINED ONLY THROUGH THE CONTINUING PROCESS OF FULLY COORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING WHICH IS RESPONSIVE TO ALL OF THE INTERESTS AND JURISDICTIONS OF THE BASIN; AND

WHEREAS, THE EFFECTUATION OF PLANS SO CONCEIVED FOR THE CONSERVATION, UTILIZATION, DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THESE WATER RESOURCES FOR MAXIMUM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BENEFIT MAY BEST BE REALIZED UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A SINGLE BASIN AGENCY; AND

WHEREAS, THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE PREPARED A DRAFT OF AN INTERSTATE-FEDERAL COMPACT CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A BASIN AGENCY TO DISCHARGE THE JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES, THE STATES IN THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSERVATION, UTILIZATION, DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES OF THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN, WHICH DRAFT HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED AND BY THE PUBLIC AND HAS BEEN REVISED IN THE LIGHT OF COMMENTS THEREFROM;