

WHEREAS, This shortage in natural gas has caused many places of business to close or to restrict their business hours, which has not merely inconvenienced the citizens of Maryland but which has led to a severe economic hardship both upon the citizens and upon the governmental units that are dependent upon a good economic climate to produce needed revenues; and

WHEREAS, We have a 600 year supply of coal in this country and coal is relatively inexpensive; and

WHEREAS, We now have the technology which will permit the generation of power by coal and still comply with air quality standards; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has an abundant supply of coal which could be used to heat public buildings and businesses; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor of the State of Maryland, the Department of State Planning, and the Energy Planning Office ~~lock into and consider the possibility of converting the heating systems in public buildings to the use of coal; and be it further, and the Department of General Services undertake a study on the viability of converting State buildings that use natural gas or oil for heat and power to the use of coal and that this study be completed by July 1, 1978; and be it further~~

~~RESOLVED, That the Departments of Natural Resources and Health and Mental Hygiene give consideration to a special allowance permitting public buildings, as well as businesses, to heat with coal; and be it further~~

RESOLVED, That the Department of Economic and Community Development study the possibility of converting public utilities in Maryland to the use of coal and that this study be completed by July 1, 1978; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the offices of the Comptroller and Budget and Fiscal Planning allow a fiscal consideration to encourage the conversion to coal heating; and be it further

RESOLVED, That wherever possible Maryland coal be used for heat within the State; and be it further

~~RESOLVED, That at such a time that the crises caused by the cold and the shortage of acceptable fuel is over that the State once again move to comply with high standards of clean air and improved health conditions;~~