

increase the financial resources which remain within the State to support jobs and economic activity within Maryland economy; and

(3) Reducing the State's consumption of energy can lessen the adverse economic impacts on its citizens caused by rising energy prices, can reduce the consumption of depletable resources which have other beneficial uses, and can reduce environmental impacts from the utilization of energy sources; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Energy Office has estimated that a total of 1,301,868 utility customers are eligible for energy audits during the five year program and that 85 percent of customers who have audits will upgrade their weatherization based on these audits; and

WHEREAS, Less than one-half of 1 percent of the eligible customers in Maryland have received audits in 1981 which is less than 20 percent of the national average; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is significantly below the stated goals of the Maryland Energy Office and the national goals and success rates of other States' programs; and

WHEREAS, Residential Conservation Service Plans adopted by Maryland utilities have been criticized for not including adequate promotion strategies, not utilizing community based organizations and businesses for outreach, having no special means for reaching low income, elderly or rental customers and having inadequate plans for audit follow-up rendering the programs cost ineffective; and

WHEREAS, The full benefits of an aggressively promoted and implemented RCS program of residential energy conservation and lower utility costs to consumers are not being realized in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly recognizes the importance of the full implementation of the Residential Conservation Service in Maryland and that relatively inexpensive conservation measures can reduce energy consumption by between 30 and 50 percent in an unweatherized home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Public Service Commission and the Maryland Energy Administration are requested (1) to conduct a thorough review, including public hearings, of the implementation by public utilities of the Residential Conservation Service Plan and specifically make findings as to the effectiveness of the individual utilities implementation of the Residential Conservation Service Plan, including energy audits; (2) to ~~require~~ EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING implementation that includes effective marketing and