

FOR the purpose of requesting the United States Department of Navy to end all further consideration of any site on the Chesapeake Bay for the location of the EMPRESS II project.

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Navy has announced a proposal to locate an Electro Magnetic Pulse Radiation Environmental Simulator for Ships (EMPRESS II) project in the Chesapeake Bay near Bloodsworth Island; and

WHEREAS, The Navy has not given sufficient consideration to the adverse effects of the proposed exclusionary zone of 12.6 square miles for the EMPRESS II project on the commercial and recreational users of this portion of the Chesapeake Bay, including the effect on 1,193 acres of public oyster bar in the zone; and

WHEREAS, The Navy has not adequately addressed issues bearing on human health effects including exposure to electric fields which has been shown to increase the risk of various types of cancer, the possibility that exposure to electromagnetic radiation can cause several nonthermal effects including changes in blood chemistry, damage to lymphocytes and monocytes, granulocytopenia, monocytosis, and eosinophilia and moderate neutrophilia, the possibility that exposure may also cause cardiac arrhythmias, and that changes in the digestive system, glands, metabolism, reproductive cycles, visual system and internal sound perception have also been noted; and

WHEREAS, The Navy has not addressed adequately the possibility of boaters receiving brief but painful electric shocks for a distance of up to 3 miles which has been raised by the Johns Hopkins, Applied Physics Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, The Navy has concentrated its attention on the site at the Bloodsworth Island portion of the Chesapeake Bay and seems to be ignoring 97 other sites including land based sites or ocean sites; and

WHEREAS, The Navy has not adequately addressed the following issues bearing on natural resources: the possible electrocution of fish, birds, and shellfish larvae and other important organisms, the possible disturbance of migratory patterns of birds and finfish, and the possibility that sounds propagated in the water by EMP testing could cause undesirable effects to marine mammals and fish; and

WHEREAS, The above important concerns have not received sufficient analysis in the Navy's draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for this project; and

WHEREAS, The local citizens, including watermen, and elected officials have expressed their strong opposition to the location of the EMPRESS II project in the proposed area of Chesapeake Bay, particularly at the public hearing held in Dorchester County on November 20, 1984; and