

WHEREAS, Although approximately 35% of Maryland's total land area is farmland, Maryland's agricultural land is still rapidly disappearing, with an estimated 18,000 acres of farmland annually being converted to urban, commercial, or other nonagricultural use; and

WHEREAS, Global economic trends, continuing development pressures, the encroachment of strip and scattered development in rural areas and nearby cities, and growing urbanization, threaten the destruction of Maryland's rural environment and the disappearance of its valuable agricultural land for agricultural purposes; and

WHEREAS, Maryland should not become one large urban development without any balanced agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, It is generally essential to Maryland's economic and environmental stability and growth, and particularly to maintain an agricultural economy in the State, to preserve large, contiguous areas of prime and productive agricultural land; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the statewide goal is to ~~preserve 1.1 million acres of productive agricultural land~~ double triple the existing numbers of acres of productive agricultural land preserved by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, GreenPrint, Rural Legacy, and local preservation programs by the year 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Secretary of Agriculture; the Secretary of Natural Resources; and the Secretary of Planning.

Signed May 16, 2002.

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**Joint Resolution No. 18**

**(Senate Joint Resolution No. 15)**

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

**Natural Resources – Mute Swans – Federal Agency Control Measures**

FOR the purpose of urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to act with expedience to craft and conduct appropriate regulatory processes which will allow Maryland to establish a method of controlling the mute swan population and to mitigate the mute swan population's impact permanently and statewide; urging the U.S. Department of the Interior to appeal a certain holding; and generally relating to certain federal agency measures to control the mute swan population.

WHEREAS, The bird species known as the mute swan is not native to the Chesapeake Bay; and