

Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, U.S. Congress, 1632 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Constance A. Morella, U.S. Congress, 2228 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240; Mr. Marshall Jones, Director (Acting), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240; and Mr. Jon Andrew, Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203.

Signed May 16, 2002.

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**Joint Resolution No. 19**

**(House Joint Resolution No. 12)**

A House 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

WHEREAS, Surveys of the Chesapeake Bay indicate that the mute swan population is growing at an alarming rate, increasing from less than 100 birds in 1973 to nearly 4,000 in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Mute swans negatively impact native species and habitats in parts of the Chesapeake Bay by displacing State-listed nesting waterbirds and removing large amounts of submerged aquatic vegetation which is vital to all life in the Bay; and

WHEREAS, Mute swans have repeatedly disrupted efforts to restore submerged aquatic vegetation, obstructing progress toward the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement goal of restoring 114,000 acres of the vegetation by 2010; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that mute swans are protected by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations governing activities involving direct contact with protected birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and