

WHEREAS, When ethanol is added to petroleum fuels it reduces carbon monoxide emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, urban air pollution, water pollution, waste disposal, acid rain, and smog, and, at the same time, does not adversely affect the nitrogen oxide levels or the performance of motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Ethanol is a flexible, environmentally friendly fuel that can be used as a 10% blend (E10) to run in any vehicle to boost the octane level of gasoline, as an oxygenate to replace methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), or simply as an extender to displace foreign oil. It can also be used as an 85% blend (E85) as an alternative fuel which will run in a large number of commercially available flexible fuel vehicles, as a source of hydrogen for fuel cells, blended with diesel to reduce sulfur levels, and as an aviation fuel; and

WHEREAS, A recent study shows that a barley-based ethanol plant is feasible for Maryland. Ethanol production benefits the economy by providing an additional cash crop for Maryland farmers, creating new jobs in rural areas, reducing the dependency on foreign petroleum, therefore, reducing the trade deficit, and lowering health care costs associated with toxic emissions; and

WHEREAS, The Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the Environment have determined that cover crops are one of the most effective Best Management Practices to reduce nitrogen loading into the Chesapeake Bay. A small grains ethanol plant will expand the acreage of barley and other small grains, which are excellent cover crops that utilize residual nitrogen thereby reducing agricultural runoff into the Chesapeake Bay and coastal bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has established certain policies to expand the use of clean burning, renewable, domestic fuels, like ethanol, and is considering further incentives to increase the use of renewable energies; and

WHEREAS, The Governor has expressed his support for renewable energy and alternative fuels in his recent Executive Orders on Energy Conservation and Efficiency and Clean Power, Green Buildings, and Energy Efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Other states have benefitted from investments and policies designed to foster the development of an ethanol production industry; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly wishes to support the construction of a fuel grade ethanol plant in Maryland and is willing to support financial assistance for the construction of the plant; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That ethanol production could provide significant contributions to the State's environment, energy security, and economy. The General Assembly urges the Department of Business and Economic Development, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Environment to provide technical assistance and financial support for the development of a business plan for an ethanol industry in Maryland; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Business and Economic Development, and the Maryland Energy Administration, in conjunction with the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, shall report to the General