

questing the Senate Committee on Armed Services to hold hearings to obtain information and to recommend to the Senate appropriate legislation defining and delimiting territorial waters of the United States.

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland is the owner of approximately 1,600,000 acres of submerged lands covered by the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, as well as some 61,000 acres of submerged lands of the Atlantic coastal shelf within three miles from the shore, subject only to Federal powers of navigation, commerce and national defense; and

WHEREAS, in 1775 the State of Maryland succeeded to all rights of Lord Baltimore, and, as a sovereign, the State also became entitled to the recognized public law rights of a sovereign to land within its borders under navigable waters; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the Federal Constitution, ratified by Maryland on April 28, 1788, the State of Maryland's rights to these submerged lands under navigable waters were recognized and forever formalized, subject only to delegated Federal powers of navigation, commerce and national defense; and

WHEREAS, for more than one hundred and seventy years the United States government, Congress and the Supreme Court have uniformly, unanimously and consistently recognized that title and the rights which accompany it; and

WHEREAS, in 1937, for the first time and as an original proposition, the Federal government began to assert, through the agency of Secretary Ickes, claim to the marginal seas by reason of the fact that oil was being extracted in those areas by the States; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States, in 1947, in a suit instituted by the Department of Justice entitled *U. S. v. California*, 332 U. S. 19, overthrew more than a hundred years of established precedents in a might makes right decision and held that the United States had paramount rights over the submerged lands adjacent to the shores of California, while not deciding the question of ownership; and

WHEREAS, in a subsequent decision, entitled *Toomer v. Witsell*, 334 U. S. 385, decided in 1948, the Supreme Court held that the power of South Carolina to regulate fishing in the