

No. 50

(House Joint Resolution 29)

House Joint Resolution urging the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to refrain from decisions to divert water from the Susquehanna River Basin pending the creation of a Tri-State Compact to manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin.

The General Assembly of Maryland requests the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to make no further diversions of water from the Susquehanna River Basin until after the pending Compact among the State of New York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the State of Maryland is completed and adopted.

For a number of years important and vital studies have moved forward concerning the Susquehanna River Basin. Thus, the Interstate Advisory Commission on the Susquehanna River Basin, with legislative and executive appointees from all three States, has given detailed and careful scrutiny to possibilities for an interstate Compact in which the three States would join in the administration of the water resources of the entire Susquehanna River Basin. This group is now nearing the completion of its work and within months should be able to submit a proposed Compact to the legislative bodies of the three States.

In addition, and also for a number of years, the Susquehanna River Basin Coordinating Committee has been attempting concerted action of State and Federal agencies in relation to the Susquehanna River Basin. This group was formed originally by the Corps of Engineers, and it contains appointees of the several governments, with the group making studies of the work done in the Susquehanna River Basin by the Corps of Engineers.

The Susquehanna River is one of the great water resources in the eastern part of the United States. It is vitally important to a large area in southeastern New York State and to the entire central portion of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It has a very vital part in the continued well-being of the State of Maryland.

The great Chesapeake Bay is dependent upon the Susquehanna River for up to eighty percent of its fresh water supply. Any diminution in the flow of fresh water into the Bay would be potentially and actually dangerous to the continued usefulness and productivity of the Chesapeake Bay.

Actually that great body of water is a national and not only a State asset. It is a wonderfully productive area for seafood and is used annually by many, many thousands of persons for healthful and wholesome recreation.

The Compact shortly to be submitted to the three States should result in an improvement in both the quality and quantity of the water flowing in the Susquehanna River Valley. Pending the completion of this Compact and its consideration by the legislative and executive officials of the three States, the State of Maryland proposes that no additional diversions of water be made throughout the Sus-