

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the Honorable ~~Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates~~ Thomas V. Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Signed May 2, 2006.

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**Joint Resolution No. 5**  
**(House Joint Resolution No. 7)**

A House Joint Resolution concerning

**Chesapeake Bay - Cleanup and Restoration - Federal Funding**

FOR the purpose of urging the President of the United States to reconsider his recently released budget proposal and maintain the current levels of federal funding for Chesapeake Bay cleanup and restoration efforts, such as sewage treatment plant upgrades, oyster restoration, and other existing and beneficial programs that are designed to improve the health of the Bay.

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is part of Maryland's heritage and culture and plays a vital role in many sectors of Maryland's economy, including the commercial seafood, recreational fishing, and tourism industries; and

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in North America, and the Bay and its tributaries are a national treasure; and

WHEREAS, Other national treasures, such as the Great Lakes and the Everglades, receive 2 to 10 times respectively, more federal funding than what is afforded the Bay; and

WHEREAS, While significant progress has been made in restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, they remain in a significantly degraded condition; and

WHEREAS, Oysters serve as natural water filters and current Bay oyster population is at only 2% of historic levels; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 275 million pounds of nitrogen enter the Bay every year and in order to make substantial progress in Bay restoration, there must be a reduction of at least 110 million pounds of nitrogen per year; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is a signatory to the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, in which the State pledged significant reduction of nitrogen pollution to improve the health of the Bay, with federal funds being an essential part of that process; and

WHEREAS, The federal budget proposed by the President of the United States decreases funding that is vital to continue cleanup and restoration efforts that play an