

WHEREAS, Maersk and Sea-Land, which compose the largest container operator in the United States, have indicated they would handle volumes reaching as many as 550,000 containers annually, with some 10 ship calls weekly at their Northeast load center; and

WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore has excellent cargo facilities for containerized cargo, cargo and a 50 foot ~~channel,~~ channel; and ~~a long term strategic dredging plan that assures Maersk/Sea Land that the port can accommodate deep draft ships~~

WHEREAS, A long-term strategic dredging plan has been proposed that would assure Maersk/Sea-Land that the port can accommodate deep-draft ships; and

WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore is situated in the fourth largest consumer market in the nation and is well positioned to accommodate large volumes of cargo locally and to the Midwest, Philadelphia, Washington, and New York markets; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore offers excellent intermodal, highway, and rail connections, including the benefits of two Class I railroads, CSX and Norfolk Southern, that can offer a greater range of service to more locations; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has made substantial investments in the Port of Baltimore by maintaining its shipping channels and developing state-of-the-art facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore, labor organizations, the Maryland Bay Pilots, and the Port Community have all worked together to bring Maersk/Sea-Land to the Port of Baltimore; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly supports the Port of Baltimore's initiative to grow cargo by aggressively participating in the effort to secure Maersk/Sea-Land business; and be it further

RESOLVED, That to the extent possible, sufficient funding be allocated to the Port of Baltimore in order to make the necessary physical improvements to accommodate the substantial increase in business generated by Maersk/Sea-Land; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Governor Parris Glendening and the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Port of Baltimore, and the Department of Business and Economic Development have the full support of the General Assembly in their negotiations with Maersk/Sea-Land in order to grow the Port of Baltimore and Maryland's economic vitality; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it further