

No. 52 *

(Senate Joint Resolution 35)

Senate Joint Resolution requesting the Governor and the Board of Public Works to choose a site other than Hart Island, Miller Island and Pleasure Island for the dumping of dredging spoils from Baltimore Harbor.

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay is one of the world's greatest natural resources; and

WHEREAS, since the colonizing of this State, the Chesapeake Bay has yielded sustenance from its bountiful water to feed the people that live along its shores; and

WHEREAS, the Bay has provided recreation, fun, and pleasure, for countless millions of people; and

WHEREAS, any scheme or plan that could possibly harm our greatest of wonders must be scrutinized carefully; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this State to prohibit any actions that could harm the beauty of the Bay, and the interests of those who live by its shores; and

WHEREAS, Hart, Miller, and Pleasure Islands are used for recreation by hardworking men and women of this State, and the islands provide a space of refuge for these men and women away from the problems of our troubled world; and

WHEREAS, this site has been selected over 70 other proposed sites because it was considered to be "the path of least resistance"; and

WHEREAS, it is proposed that 100 million cubic yards of dredging spoils be used to increase the size of the islands from 140 acres to 2000 acres; and

WHEREAS, one side of the proposed dike is to be 16 feet above the high water mark; and

WHEREAS, the officials in charge of this project have publicly stated that all bottom marine life within the three square mile area will die as a result of the construction; and

WHEREAS, this project will cause irreparable harm to the wild-life of this area; and

WHEREAS, there has been no ecological study completed to date on the project; and

WHEREAS, there is only one other project similar to this, the Crany Island Project in Virginia, and the ecologists and environmentalists of that area consider it a dismal failure; and

* Not signed by the Governor.