

WHEREAS, The call for a new constitution for the United States began as an effort to better regulate the commerce of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Maryland and Virginia were among the first states to settle jurisdictional disputes arising from conflicts over trade, navigation, and fishing; and

WHEREAS, At the request of the Virginia General Assembly, the Maryland General Assembly in January, 1785, appointed Thomas Johnson, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Thomas Stone, and Samuel Chase to meet with representatives from Virginia to discuss and resolve mutual problems of jurisdiction over navigation and fishing on the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac River, and the Pocomoke River; and

WHEREAS, This meeting convened at Mount Vernon at the invitation of George Washington on March 28, 1785, and resulted in the Mount Vernon Compact, provisions of which with regard to fishing on the Potomac are still in effect today; and

WHEREAS, The bipartisan success of the Mount Vernon Conference led to the call for a meeting of all the states to assemble in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1786, to discuss matters relating to trade; and

WHEREAS, The Annapolis Convention of September 11-14, 1786, concluded that the whole framework of the national government required immediate attention and issued a call for the Philadelphia Convention that, in 1787, adopted the Constitution of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Maryland General Assembly wishes to join with the General Assembly of Virginia in marking the bicentennial of the Mount Vernon Conference on March 28, 1985; and be it further

RESOLVED, That March 28, 1985, be observed as a day of historical significance because of the precedent set for interstate cooperation between Maryland and Virginia by the Mount Vernon Conference, that continues to this day, and because of the important part played by the Mount Vernon Conference as a first step in the movement toward the drafting of the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That appropriate ceremonies be undertaken in the State and by the federal government and the other states to recognize the importance of the Mount Vernon Conference in promoting interstate cooperation and in laying the groundwork for the Annapolis Convention of 1786 and the Philadelphia Convention of 1787; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,