



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

RESOLUTION

to Enhance the Role of the United States Department of Agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and historically the most productive estuary in the world, and

WHEREAS, the federal, state and local governments and citizens of this watershed have worked in partnership to stop the decline and accelerate the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, and

WHEREAS, farmers in this watershed have been leaders in the voluntary restoration effort and a national model for cooperation, and

WHEREAS, it is apparent that all sectors, including agriculture, must do more if we are to remove nutrient impairments to the Chesapeake Bay, and

WHEREAS, we, as leaders of the Chesapeake Executive Council, have recognized that the new Farm Bill of 2002

provides an unprecedented opportunity to provide support for many Chesapeake Bay conservation, resource restoration and environmental needs, and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Executive Council recognizes that the new Farm Bill of 2002 can support both technical and financial resources in addressing nutrient reduction needs, as well as encouraging conservation, innovation and partnerships in watersheds such as the Chesapeake Bay, and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Executive Council has discussed with USDA innovative approaches utilizing the unique federal-interstate joint working partnership that has made significant progress in reducing nutrients throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the Secretary of Agriculture to make the Chesapeake Bay watershed a priority objective by heightening coordination efforts with other Federal departments and agencies in order to leverage resources available from Federal programs, such as the Farm Bill, the private sector and the States; and

FURTHER, that the Secretary of Agriculture will utilize, where appropriate, the experience of the Chesapeake Bay Program as Farm Bill rules are developed for programs included in Title 2: Conservation; Title 7: Research; Title 8: Forestry; and Title 9: Energy.

Given under our hand this 31st day of October 2002

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND



Pamela N. Glendon

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