

2003 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 38

Offered January 14, 2003

Memorializing the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation in support of nitrogen reduction technology (NRT) in the 108th Congress.

Patrons—Pollard, Drake, Bloxom, Byron, Callahan, Christian, Councill, Cox, Dillard, Gear, Griffith, Hamilton, Hargrove, Howell, Landes, Louderback, McDonnell, Miles, Morgan, Orrock, Parrish, Plum, Putney, Saxman, Sherwood, Suit, Weatherholtz and Wright; Senators: Wagner and Williams

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are national treasures that play a vital role in many sectors of Virginia's economy including the commercial seafood, recreational fishing, and tourism industries; and

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

WHEREAS, nitrogen pollution, the most serious problem facing water quality in the Bay today, results in excessive algae growth that clouds water, depletes oxygen, and severely impacts vital bay grasses, young fish, and crabs; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is a signatory to the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, in which Virginia pledged to significantly reduce nitrogen pollution sufficient to remove the Chesapeake Bay from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's impaired waters list by 2010; and

WHEREAS, upgrading sewage treatment plants, which currently contribute 61 million pounds of nitrogen annually to the Bay, is the single most cost-effective step we can take to significantly reduce nitrogen pollution; and

WHEREAS, sewage treatment plants in Virginia discharge up to 25 milligrams of nitrogen per liter of wastewater, while current technology allows that discharge to be reduced to only 3 milligrams per liter; and

WHEREAS, United States Senators John Warner and George Allen have introduced legislation to provide funding to allow Bay watershed sewage treatment plants to substantially reduce their nitrogen pollution by installing NRT at no cost to them, the Commonwealth, or ratepayers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Congress of the United States be urged to adopt legislation in support of nitrogen reduction technology (NRT) in the 108th Congress; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation so that they may be apprised of the sense of the House of Delegates of Virginia in this matter.

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HR38