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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 812

Offered January 25, 2007

*Commending the 10 River Basin Grand Winners of the Clean Water Farm Award and the Bay Friendly Farm Award.*

Patrons—Cox, Bulova, Byron, Cline, Eisenberg, Hogan, Lewis, Lohr, Marshall, D.W., McEachin, Morgan, Orrock, Plum, Poisson, Saxman, Scott, E.T., Shannon, Sherwood, Shuler, Ware, R.L., Wittman and Wright

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is the lead agency for the Clean Water Farm Award and the Bay Friendly Farm Award program; and

WHEREAS, legislation passed by the General Assembly in 1998 allowed a new program emphasis and enabled DCR to better promote the program across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Farm Award and the Bay Friendly Farm Award program further the Commonwealth's water quality goals by recognizing farmers actively engaged in nutrient management practices and other important conservation practices that control agricultural nonpoint source pollution; and

WHEREAS, DCR and Virginia's 47 soil and water conservation districts have assisted farmers for many years with education, technical assistance, and incentive programs for nutrient reduction and water quality improvement; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Farm Award and the Bay Friendly Farm Award recognized 35 farms as winners in 2006; and

WHEREAS, at the December 2006 meeting of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 10 River Basin Grand Winners were selected and announced by DCR; and

WHEREAS, those 10 winners were:

Big Sandy/Tennessee River Basin—William S. Stallard, Nickelsville;

Coastal Basin—Warren Callis, Mathews;

Chowan River Basin—R.W. White Farm LLC, Virginia Beach;

James River Basin—Oakland Farm, eastern Henrico County;

New River Basin—Thornspring Simmental Farm, Michael and Tina Jones, Pulaski;

Potomac River Basin—Keith Balderson, Montross;

Rappahannock River Basin—Ken-Walt Farm, the Fisher Family, Madison;

Roanoke River Basin—Van Der Hyde Dairy, Pittsylvania County;

Shenandoah River Basin—Grazeland Dairy, Inc., Philip Witmer, Dayton;

York River Basin—Luck Farm, Mr. and Mrs. V. Earl Dickinson, Mineral; and

WHEREAS, these 10 farms were selected from the 35 Clean Water Farm Award and Bay Friendly Farm Award winners to represent Virginia's 10 major river basins and to recognize their exemplary efforts in following nutrient management plan objectives and implementing best management practices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate the 10 River Basin Grand Winners of the Clean Water Farm Award and the Bay Friendly Farm Award; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to the 10 River Basin Grand Winners as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for their commitment to conserving Virginia's natural resources and their outstanding conservation achievements.

INTRODUCED

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