

10     **A Resolution Concerning**  
20     **THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF CERCLA**

30     **WHEREAS:**     The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act  
40                     (CERCLA) was passed in 1980 as a response to the environmental disaster in Love  
50                     Canal, New York; and,

60     **WHEREAS:**     The goal of the legislation was to aid in the protection of human health and the  
70                     environment from the adverse effects of hazardous substances released into the  
80                     environment; and,

90     **WHEREAS:**     After 1986, funding for CERCLA was primarily generated through revenues created from  
100                    a corporate income tax that fed into a trust fund for environmental cleanups; and,

110    **WHEREAS:**     With revenues from this tax, the Environmental Protection Agency was able to remediate  
120                    numerous hazardous waste sites throughout the United States; and,

130    **WHEREAS:**     In 1995, Congress voted to cut the Superfund Tax, resulting in a shortfall of funding for  
140                    the program; and,

150    **WHEREAS:**     As a result, the amount of cleanups that the Environmental Protection Agency has been  
160                    able to undertake has been greatly reduced, allowing many toxic waste sites to lay fallow;  
170                    and,

180    **WHEREAS:**     Many of the sites remaining on the National Priorities List to be cleaned up by CERCLA  
190                    funding are complex megasites that will take many years and lots of money to remediate;  
200                    and,

210    **WHEREAS:**     Historically, the corporate income tax was the most consistent source of funding for the  
220                    program.

230    **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the United States  
240                    Congress to reenact the Superfund Tax for as long as necessary to clean up the remaining  
250                    531 sites on the National Priorities List; and,

260    **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**     That this tax takes the form of a corporate income tax at a rate of no  
270                    more than 5% per annum.

280    **MANDATES:**  
290     Sen. Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader  
300     Sen. Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader  
310     Rep. Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader  
320     Rep. John Boehner, House Minority Leader  
330     Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the EPA

**SPONSOR:**  
Matthew Emery, McDaniel College  
Speaker of the Assembly