

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2014 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-90-2014

Proposed by Council Members Lehman and Olson

Introduced by Council Members Lehman and Olson

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction September 23, 2014

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Support of the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineer's

3 *Proposed Definition of "Waters of the United States" Under the Clean Water Act*

4 For the purpose of protection of public health, recreational resources, economic livelihood
5 related to clean water, under the Waters of the United States as it provides an extraordinary value
6 for Prince George's County.

7 WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act is the fundamental federal law protecting the Waters of
8 the United States from pollution, degradation and destruction and strong federal standards are
9 needed because water does not respect political boundaries; and

10 WHEREAS, critical streams and wetlands which supply drinking water, protect against
11 floods and filter pollution previously were protected under the Clean Water Act, but federal
12 policy changes over the last decade have left these streams and wetlands vulnerable to
13 degradation or destruction; and

14 WHEREAS, these vulnerable waters of the United States impact sources of drinking water
15 for over 117 million Americans, including 5,885,000 residents in Maryland; and

16 WHEREAS, more than 1,000 peer reviewed scientific studies have confirmed that
17 headwater intermittent and ephemeral streams and wetlands affect the quantity and quality of
18 water in larger bodies of water downstream; and

19 WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers
20 have proposed a clarifying rulemaking that all tributary streams, regardless of size or frequency
21 of flow are covered under the Clean Water Act and according to Clean Water Action will restore

1 protections to 2210 miles of streams in Maryland that 77% of our residents depend on for
2 drinking water.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Prince George's
4 County, Maryland, supports the proposed *Definition of "Waters of the United States"* under the
5 Clean Water Act and urges the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers
6 to finalize these important protections for our nation's water resources.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent by the Clerk of the
8 Council to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, Senator Ben
9 Cardin, Senator Barbara Mikulski, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Congresswoman Donna
10 Edwards, Governor Martin O'Malley, and Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker,
11 III.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2014.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Mel Franklin
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council