

## RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADOPT

LEGISLATION AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE

ENVIRONMENTALLY-HAZARDOUS JAMES RIVER RESERVE FLEET AND TO

ENCOURAGE OTHER AFFECTED VIRGINIA LOCALITIES TO TAKE A SIMILAR ACTION

WHEREAS, the James River Reserve Fleet, commonly known as the Ghost Fleet, is moored on the James River near Fort Eustis; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 the Reserve Fleet consisted of 97 ships, 71 of which the United States Maritime Administration considered obsolete and scheduled to be removed from the Fleet and scrapped. Since 2002, several vessels have been removed from the Fleet; and

WHEREAS, the Reserve Fleet holds 7.7 million gallons of oils and fuels according to the latest government estimates; and

WHEREAS, the Reserve Fleet still poses a serious and increasing environmental threat to the Hampton Roads region according to a 2002 report created for the United States Maritime Administration, and a serious oil and/or gas spill from the decaying ships is no longer a mere possibility but a probability; and

WHEREAS, a large oil or gas leak would heavily pollute the waters, shores, beaches, and wetlands of James City County and other jurisdictions approximate to the James River, causing hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars in environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, the environmental risk is heightened by the threat of storm or hurricane related damage that could cause the release of toxic and hazardous materials into the water and on to the shores of James City County, Newport News, Hampton, Isle of Wight County, Suffolk, and other coastal communities in Hampton Roads and along the banks of the James River.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, hereby urges Congress to adopt legislation and to appropriate the necessary funds for the removal of obsolete, and environmentally-hazardous vessels from the James River Reserve Fleet, in order to protect the waters, shores, beaches, and wetlands of James City County and the other jurisdictions approximate to the James River from ecological disaster.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors encourages those jurisdictions approximate to the James River or who are members of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission to adopt a resolution urging Congress to take the above stated action.

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James G. Kennedy  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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Sanford B. Wanner  
Clerk to the Board

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, this 28th day of  
April, 2009.

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