

ARTICLE I.

FINDINGS.

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

1. FOR SOME TIME NOW, THE STATE OF MARYLAND (INCLUDING THE CITY OF BALTIMORE), THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, THROUGH THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE REGIONAL 2012 COALITION (WBRC 2012), HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN NATIONAL COMPETITION TO WIN THE U.S. CANDIDATE CITY DESIGNATION AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, THE HOST CITY DESIGNATION AND THE RIGHT TO HOST THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES.

2. HOSTING THE OLYMPIC GAMES WILL PROVIDE SEVERAL MAJOR, LASTING, AND UNIQUE BENEFITS FOR ALL OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CHESAPEAKE REGION, INCLUDING:

(A) DIRECT, POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON OUR REGIONAL ECONOMY;

(B) AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE OUR REGION TO THE WORLD;

(C) A CATALYST FOR REGIONAL ACTION; AND

(D) A RENEWED SENSE OF PRIDE ALONG WITH A TANGIBLE LEGACY (E.G. NEW AND IMPROVED VENUES AND ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE).

3. INDEPENDENT ECONOMIC STUDIES SHOW THAT PREPARING FOR AND HOSTING THE OLYMPIC GAMES WILL HAVE A POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE REGION, INCLUDING:

(A) DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPENDING IN EXCESS OF \$5,000,000,000;

(B) THE CREATION OF APPROXIMATELY 70,000 JOBS;

(C) INCREASED TAX REVENUES RESULTING FROM OLYMPIC RELATED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN EXCESS OF \$130,000,000, WITHOUT RAISING OR CREATING ANY NEW TAXES; AND

(D) A LASTING IMPROVEMENT IN THE REGION'S COMPETITIVE POSITION WITHIN THE TRAVEL/TOURISM INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS THE REGION'S ABILITY TO ATTRACT NEW BUSINESSES.

4. THE CITIZENS OF THE REGION HAVE RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO WBRC 2012'S EFFORTS AND SOLIDLY EMBRACED THE CAUSE TO HOST THE OLYMPIC GAMES, EXPRESSED IN PART BY THE ENDORSEMENT OF SCORES OF LOCAL BUSINESS, CIVIC, GOVERNMENTAL, ACADEMIC, AND AMATEUR SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS, AND BY SURVEY RESULTS THAT SHOW:

(A) 82% OF THE REGION'S RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE EFFORT TO BRING THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES TO THIS AREA; AND