



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OMEGA PROTEIN CORPORATION

WHEREAS, One of Northumberland County's greatest traditions is commercial fishing in the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, Omega Protein and their fishing partner, Ocean Harvesters, both have Corporate Headquarters in Northumberland County, Virginia, serving as the County's largest commercial employer; and,

WHEREAS, Omega Protein and Ocean Harvesters provides numerous job opportunities for not only Northumberland County, but area counties as well, employing 260 people directly and 250 people indirectly who all share a deep passion for sustainable fishing; and,

WHEREAS, Omega Protein and Ocean Harvesters have been accused of over harvesting menhaden for many years with no scientific data to substantiate these claims and it is believed to be correlated with the decline in the striped bass population; and,

WHEREAS, the decline in the striped bass population continues to be directly correlated with the overharvesting of striped bass and not the lack of available food; and,

WHEREAS, several of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) assessments found that menhaden fishery is sustainable and enough menhaden remain in the water to fulfill their ecological role; and,

WHEREAS, last year's Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) assessment on menhaden found the stock so healthy, the coastwide quota was raised by 20%, and

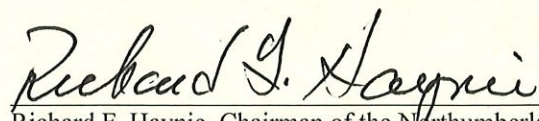
WHEREAS, Omega Protein has been operating in Northumberland County since 1878 and is an asset to our community as they provide funding for many community events and organizations to help contribute to their success; and,

WHEREAS, Omega Protein and Ocean Harvesters not only benefits Northumberland County but is a substantial regional economic benefit to several outside businesses from which Omega receives its goods and services; and,

WHEREAS, Omega Protein and Ocean Harvesters have proven to be extremely environmentally conscious and recently assisted the County with getting equipment on site for a sewer leak in Cockrell Creek; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors supports the environmentally responsible practices of the menhaden fishing industry and desires that consideration only be given to science to determine the need for menhaden fishing restrictions.

Adopted: February 8, 2024


Richard F. Haynie, Chairman of the Northumberland
County Board of Supervisors