

Joint Committee on Federal Relations

2010 Interim Membership Roster

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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

Joint Committee on Federal Relations

December 17, 2010

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-chairman
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Co-chairman
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Joint Committee on Federal Relations respectfully submits this report on committee activities during the 2010 interim. Pursuant to Title 2, Subtitle 9 of the State Government Article, the committee is responsible for monitoring the effects of federal proposals on the State, reviewing interstate compacts, and generally promoting cooperation between the State and federal governments. The committee's major activities are summarized below.

Race to the Top – In November the committee held a briefing on the federal *Race to the Top* initiative. *Race to the Top* is a \$4.5 billion program that represents the largest discretionary grant program under the United States Department of Education. The focus of the program is principal and teacher evaluations. A representative from the National Conference of State Legislatures briefed the committee on *Race to the Top*. The briefing included an overview of the program, its current status, and states' responses, including Maryland's, to the program requirements.

Interstate Compacts – Also during the same November meeting, the committee completed its review of the following interstate compacts:

- Driver's License Compact;
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission;
- Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin;
- Tri-State Agreement on the Chesapeake Bay;
- Maryland – Virginia Potomac River Compact of 1958;
- Interstate Mining Compact Commission;
- Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission; and
- Southern Interstate Energy Compact.

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The joint committee concurred with the agencies' positions regarding the compacts. Seven of the items warrant Maryland's continued participation. The Maryland Energy Administration, however, suggested that Maryland's participation in the Southern Interstate Compact should be discontinued because Maryland's energy needs are different from other Southern states.

The committee looks forward to continuing its role as a forum for discussion of important issues in State-federal relations.

Sincerely,

Jennie M. Forehand
Presiding Chair

JMF/DAS/mpc