

golf course and/or a convention or conference center within the designated area. As finally passed the bill further provides that if any portions of the wildland are not used for these purposes on or before July 1, 1986, the portions should be redesignated as Type II wildlands.

While the apparent purpose of the House amendments was to preserve flexibility for a proposed Western Maryland conference or convention facility, which I strongly support, they are totally inconsistent with the philosophy behind, and the framework of, a State wildlands system. Designation of an area as a wildland should be premised on its ecology and value as a natural resource rather than the feasibility of development proposals. Based on the Secretary of Natural Resources' recommendation, I will support legislation next Session to designate the 586-acre tract as a Type II wildland.

Proposals are under consideration for the development of a conference center in Western Maryland. While a site has not been selected, a potential location under consideration is Rocky Gap State Park. It appears that both a convention center and the designation of certain areas as wildland can be accomplished in a compatible manner at Rocky Gap. However, because Senate Bill 290 authorizes extensive development in the wildlands area itself, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 290.

Sincerely,  
Harry Hughes  
Governor

Senate Bill No. 290

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources - Wildland and Open Areas

FOR the purpose of designating 586 acres as the "Rocky Gap Wildland", a Type ~~II~~ III wildland, in Allegany County; permitting certain development outside the described "Rocky Gap Wildland"; providing that the designation of the "Rocky Gap Wildland" does not preclude or preempt the creation of certain facilities or activities; providing for designation of certain portions of the Rocky Gap Wildland as a Type II wildland after a certain date; and generally relating to describing certain wildland to be included as a Type ~~II~~ III wildland area in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Natural Resources  
Section 5-1203(a)