

## DECLARATION OF POLICY.

## (A) THE CONDITION.

THE FARM AND GRAZING LANDS OF THE STATE ARE AMONG THE BASIC ASSETS OF THE STATE AND THE PRESERVATION OF THESE LANDS IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND GENERAL WELFARE OF ITS PEOPLE. IMPROPER LAND-USE PRACTICES CAUSE AND CONTRIBUTE TO A PROGRESSIVELY MORE SERIOUS EROSION OF THE FARM AND GRAZING LANDS OF THE STATE BY WIND AND WATER. THE BREAKING OF NATURAL GRASS, PLANT, AND FOREST COVER HAS INTERFERED WITH THE NATURAL FACTORS OF SOIL STABILIZATION, CAUSING LOOSENING OF SOIL AND EXHAUSTION OF HUMUS, AND DEVELOPING A SOIL CONDITION THAT FAVORS EROSION. THE TOPSOIL IS BEING BLOWN AND WASHED OUT OF FIELDS AND PASTURES AND THERE HAS BEEN AN ACCELERATED WASHING OF SLOPING FIELDS. THESE PROCESSES OF EROSION BY WIND AND WATER SPEED UP WHEN ABSORPTIVE TOPSOIL IS REMOVED, CAUSING EXPOSURE OF LESS ABSORPTIVE AND LESS PROTECTIVE BUT MORE EROSIVE SUBSOIL. THE FAILURE BY ANY LAND OCCUPIER TO CONSERVE THE SOIL AND CONTROL EROSION ON HIS LAND CAUSES A WASHING AND BLOWING OF SOIL AND WATER FROM HIS LAND ONTO OTHER LANDS AND MAKES THE CONSERVATION OF SOIL AND CONTROL OF EROSION OF OTHER LANDS DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE.

## (B) THE CONSEQUENCES.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SOIL EROSION IN THE FORM OF SOIL BLOWING AND SOIL WASHING ARE: THE SILTING AND SEDIMENTATION OF STREAM CHANNELS, RESERVOIRS, DAMS, DITCHES, AND HARBORS; THE LOSS OF FERTILE SOIL MATERIAL IN DUST STORMS; THE PILING UP OF SOIL ON LOWER SLOPES AND ITS DEPOSIT OVER ALLUVIAL PLAINS; THE REDUCTION IN PRODUCTIVITY OR OUTRIGHT RUIN OF RICH BOTTOM LANDS BY OVERWASH OF POOR SUBSOIL MATERIAL, SAND, AND GRAVEL SWEEPED OUT OF THE HILLS; DETERIORATION OF SOIL AND ITS FERTILITY, DETERIORATION OF CROPS GROWN ON THE SOIL, AND DECLINING ACRE YIELDS DESPITE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PROCESSES FOR INCREASING THEM; LOSS OF SOIL AND WATER WHICH CAUSES DESTRUCTION OF FOOD AND COVER FOR WILDLIFE; A BLOWING AND WASHING OF SOIL INTO STREAMS WHICH SILTS OVER SPAWNING BEDS, DESTROYS WATER PLANTS, AND DIMINISHES THE FOOD SUPPLY OF FISH; DIMINUTION OF THE UNDERGROUND WATER RESERVE, WHICH CAUSES WATER SHORTAGES, INTENSIFIES PERIODS OF DROUGHT, AND CAUSES CROP FAILURES; AN INCREASE IN THE SPEED AND VOLUME OF RAINFALL RUNOFF, CAUSING SEVERE AND INCREASING FLOODS, WHICH BRING SUFFERING, DISEASE,