

the need to expand and increase agricultural land is not as critical as the need to preserve the land now being farmed.

In many areas of this State, a major cause of the decrease in agricultural land is due to the short-sighted and potentially hazardous zoning regulations that require building lots of up to 5 acres. This supposed rationale for acquiring such large size lots is for health reasons. This Body recognizes that in rural areas, without sewerage, it is necessary to have larger building lots than would be required in an area served by sewers. However, regulations that require present building lots in excess of the Health Department's standards are clearly not for that purpose.

The land for these over-size building lots is carved from land that is used for agricultural purposes. In many cases, the homeowner does not desire to nor does want the financial obligation of such a large lot. There is no reason that building lots in light of the present critical shortage of food that will soon be faced in this country must take away prime agricultural land.

This Body would like to express its desire that this short-sighted policy be halted and every effort be made to preserve agricultural land; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That this Body request that [[all planning and zoning bodies throughout this State not require building lot sizes in excess of Health Department regulations;]] the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Mental Hygiene and State Planning study the problem of whether zoning requirements establishing large acreages for home sites lead to a depletion of agricultural land; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the [[Chairman of the State Planning Commission, and the Chairman of the local planning and zoning boards, and the presidents of every county council and county commission]] Secretaries of Agriculture, Health & Mental Hygiene and State Planning.

Approved April 22, 1975.