

Department Security Training Facility, and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and to the federally planned city of Greenbelt; and

WHEREAS, These federal installations are responsible for substantial advances in improved agricultural production, wildlife and endangered species research and protection, security training, radar testing, and space technology; and

WHEREAS, The Patuxent Wildlife Refuge breeding center for the bald eagle has contributed substantially to preserving from extinction this majestic bird which our country has chosen as a national symbol; and

WHEREAS, In establishing the planned community of Greenbelt, federal planners adopted as a major planning feature the greenbelt concept of surrounding the community with a belt of woodland and farmland; and

WHEREAS, The BARC was intended to form a part of this greenbelt so essential to the plan of this community; and

WHEREAS, BARC developed a comprehensive master plan in 1978, that was approved by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, adjoining federal installations, State and local governments, and local community residents; and

WHEREAS, The property in question was designated in this master plan for a variety of farm research uses and a flood plain protection area; and

WHEREAS, Removal of the natural wooded buffer provided by this parcel of land could adversely impact much of the important work being conducted and planned for the future at the nearby federal installations; and

WHEREAS, Removal of the natural buffer would be in direct contravention of the federal plan for the community of Greenbelt and in direct contravention of the BARC master plan; and

WHEREAS, Removal of this open space of natural beauty would impair the aesthetic well-being and quality of life of the local community residents; and

WHEREAS, More than 1,200 acres of BARC have already been "chipped away" by the United States Department of Agriculture over the last 2 years; and

WHEREAS, Further destruction of the integrity of this unique area must be prevented; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Administrator of the United States General Services Administration is requested to prevent an ill-advised public sale of this 247-acre tract of land located at BARC; and be it further