

days of the notification, the county governing body shall advise the foundation as to local approval or disapproval of the application. The foundation shall grant a 30 day extension of this response period if the county governing body applies to the foundation for an extension and states its reasons for seeking an extension. In deciding whether to approve the application, the county governing body shall receive the recommendation of the county agricultural preservation advisory board established under § 2-504.1 of this subtitle. In making its recommendation, the county agricultural preservation advisory board shall take into consideration criteria and standards established by the foundation under this subtitle; current local regulations, local patterns of land development, and any locally established priorities for the preservation of agricultural land. The county agricultural preservation advisory board shall provide a public hearing concerning any application to sell if such a hearing is requested by a majority of the county agricultural preservation advisory board, or by a majority of the county governing body, or by the applicant. The board of trustees of the foundation shall not approve any application to sell which has not been approved by the governing body of the county containing the subject land.

[(e)] (F) (1) In determining which applications it shall approve for the purchase of the easements offered for sale IN EACH OFFER CYCLE under this section, the foundation:

(i) May approve only those applications in which the subject land meets the criteria and standards established under §§ 2-509 and 2-513 of this subtitle; and

(ii) Shall rank the applications and submit offers to buy in order of priority, as provided in this subsection.

(2) The foundation shall adopt by rule and regulation a standard priority ranking system by which it shall rank each application. The system shall be based on the following criteria as to the easements offered in any one county:

(i) The applications shall be assigned a rank in ascending order with respect to the proportion obtained by dividing the asking price by the State appraised easement value. The resulting rank shall be the sole criterion for establishing the priority for discounted applications that include proportions of 1.0 or lower.

(ii) All additional applications which include proportions greater than 1.0 shall be assigned a numerical value that, in regard to the land for which the easement is offered, reflects:

1. The relative productive capacity of the land;