

5-9B-02.

~~(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT:~~

~~(1) SPRAWL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE LANDSCAPE IN MARYLAND CONTINUE AT AN ALARMING RATE, CONSUMING LAND RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCE, AGRICULTURAL, AND FORESTRY VALUE, ADVERSELY AFFECTING WATER QUALITY, WETLANDS AND HABITAT, THREATENING RESOURCE BASED ECONOMIES AND CULTURAL ASSETS, AND RENDING THE FABRIC OF RURAL LIFE;~~

~~(2) PRESERVING VALUABLE OPEN SPACE IN ITS NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL, OR FORESTRY USE WILL HELP CONTAIN SPRAWL DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES BY LIMITING POINT AND NONPOINT SOURCES OF POLLUTION, AND HELP MEET A GOAL OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT PERMANENTLY TO PROTECT 20% OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED BY 2010;~~

~~(3) CURRENT STATE, COUNTY, AND LOCAL LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS HELP TO LIMIT THE EFFECT OF SPRAWL DEVELOPMENT BUT LACK SUFFICIENT FUNDING AND FOCUS TO PRESERVE KEY AREAS BEFORE ESCALATING LAND VALUES MAKE THEIR PROTECTION IMPOSSIBLE OR THE LAND IS LOST TO DEVELOPMENT, AND~~

~~(4) LOCAL GRANT PROGRAMS THAT LEVERAGE AVAILABLE FUNDING, FOCUS ON PRESERVATION OF STRATEGIC RESOURCES, INCLUDING THOSE RESOURCES THREATENED BY SPRAWL DEVELOPMENT, STREAMLINE REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION PROCEDURES TO EXPEDITE LAND PRESERVATION, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INNOVATIVE PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES SUCH AS TRANSFERABLE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS, AND PROMOTE A GREATER LEVEL OF NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PROTECTION THAN IS PROVIDED BY EXISTING EFFORTS, WILL ESTABLISH A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.~~

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT:

(1) IT IS STATE PUBLIC POLICY TO IMPROVE, CONSERVE, AND MANAGE THE QUALITY OF THE WATERS OF THE STATE AND PROTECT, MAINTAIN, AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF WATER FOR PUBLIC SUPPLIES, PROPAGATION OF WILDLIFE, FISH AND AQUATIC LIFE, AND DOMESTIC, AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, RECREATIONAL, AND OTHER LEGITIMATE BENEFICIAL USES;

(2) IT IS ALSO THE POLICY OF THE STATE TO PRESERVE VALUABLE OPEN SPACE IN ITS NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL, OR FORESTRY USE, WHICH WILL NOT ONLY HELP CONTAIN SPRAWL DEVELOPMENT BUT WILL ALSO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES BY LIMITING POINT AND NONPOINT SOURCES OF POLLUTION AND HELP MEET A GOAL OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT PERMANENTLY TO PROTECT 20% OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED BY 2010;