

WHEREAS, Although approximately 35% of Maryland's total land area is farmland, Maryland's agricultural land is still rapidly disappearing, with an estimated 18,000 acres of farmland annually being converted to urban, commercial, or other nonagricultural use; and

WHEREAS, Global economic trends, continuing development pressures, the encroachment of strip and scattered development in rural areas and nearby cities, and growing urbanization, threaten the destruction of Maryland's rural environment and the disappearance of its valuable agricultural land for agricultural purposes; and

WHEREAS, Maryland should not become one large urban development without any balanced agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, It is generally essential to Maryland's economic and environmental stability and growth, and particularly to maintain an agricultural economy in the State, to preserve large, contiguous areas of prime and productive agricultural land; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the statewide goal is to ~~preserve 1.1 million acres of productive agricultural land~~ triple the existing number of acres of productive agricultural land preserved by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, GreenPrint, Rural Legacy, and local preservation programs by the year 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Secretary of Agriculture; the Secretary of Natural Resources; and the Secretary of Planning.

Signed May 16, 2002.

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**Joint Resolution No. 17**

**(House Joint Resolution No. 22)**

A House Joint Resolution concerning

**Preservation of Agricultural Land**

FOR the purpose of establishing a statewide goal to preserve ~~1.1 million acres of~~ agricultural land in Maryland.

WHEREAS, Agricultural land is an exhaustible resource of the State which, once removed from agriculture, is forever lost for crop and food production, and for open space uses; and