

property to the Foundation which protects the property from further development.

While the bill applies to only five properties in Carroll County, I am concerned about the policy and precedent of House Bill 1000. House Bill 1000 is another in a continuing series of bills that have been introduced in the past few years to weaken the easement restrictions purchased by MALPF. In this instance, the conditions of the sale of the easement were known to the owners of the property at the time of the sale over 12 years ago. Now, legislation is introduced to retroactively change those conditions.

During the 2002 Session, the Maryland Department of Agriculture opposed House Bill 1000 in the House and Senate. The opposition was based, in part, on the precedent that would be set in House Bill 1000. As passed, the bill applies only in Carroll County and only for easements sold prior to January 1990. The bill also allows the easement restrictions to be lifted for any subsequent landowner, rather than the current provisions that permit the release of easement restrictions for the landowner or a child of the landowner. Having taken this step, what is to discourage the continued erosion of MALPF in future years through the expansion of the exception to other counties, to easements sold prior to a later date or to other interested purchasers of one-acre dwelling houses under different conditions? We have protected over one million acres of land in Maryland and, for the first time, we are preserving more land than we are losing to development. House Bill 1000 is one of several bills that passed this year and in prior years which, taken together, would seriously erode our efforts to preserve land for future generations. I respectfully urge future Governors and future legislatures to remain vigilant in these protection efforts and proceed cautiously in altering these programs.

For the above reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1000.

Sincerely,  
Parris N. Glendening  
Governor

#### House Bill No. 1000

AN ACT concerning

#### **Agricultural Land Preservation - Easements - Dwelling House**

FOR the purpose of providing that a landowner who originally sold an easement to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation may apply to the Foundation for a release of a certain amount of acreage for a certain landowner in a certain county for the purpose of constructing a dwelling house under certain circumstances; prohibiting a landowner from subdividing a dwelling house from the property covered by the easement; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to agricultural land preservation.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Agriculture  
Section 2-513(b)