



# LAND FOR TOMORROW

# PROTECTING NORTH CAROLINA'S MILITARY AND WORKING LANDS

EST 2003  
SECURING NC'S FUTURE

Our state has one of the highest rural populations in the country, supporting the strongest parts of our state's economy—agriculture and the military. Our rural landscape provides a way of life for millions of North Carolinians who hunt and fish and enjoy the beauty of our state's natural places. However, we are seeing rapid change in land use as people flock to our state. North Carolina ranks second in the country in potential farmland loss over the next twenty years.

**H290, The Protect NC's Military and Working Lands Act**, is a pragmatic approach to shaping our state's growth. The Act offers state income tax credits to landowners who donate real estate for the purposes of:

1. preserving farms,
2. fish and wildlife conservation,
3. providing buffers around our military bases,
4. protecting disaster-impacted floodplains,
5. historic landscape conservation, or
6. public trails.

The Act is similar to programs in Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia.

An earlier version of this state program generated a 6 to 1 ratio of donated land value to reduced state revenue. That program, sunset in 2013, was credited with protecting 250,000 acres in North Carolina and generated a 20 percent increase overall in land donations.

North Carolina is in the midst of explosive growth as people and businesses are drawn to our state's favorable business climate and high-quality way of life. Landowners and communities need pragmatic policy solutions like the Protect NC's Military and Working Lands Act to help them respond to that growth in positive ways.



"This bill offers an important alternative to development by providing landowners with financial incentives to conserve land that benefits fish and wildlife populations and hunting and fishing opportunities for future generations." - John Culclasure, Southeastern States Director, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

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