# Kerstetter Urges 'Land Use' Plan in Address to Sportsmen

Pennsylvania Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Raymond J. Kerstetter last week called on sportsmen to back a land use policy that would preserve open spaces and greenbelts in the Commonwealth.

Addressing the spring relatively unplanned, hodge convention of the Penn-podge growth of suburbs." He added that sylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs at the Embers Motel, in Carlisle, Kerstetter noted that "we are losing our best we will need a land plan to agricultural lands to a

He said Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale "has taken the position that the day is fast coming when designate permanent family

He added that, "Along with permanent plowlands and Secretary has called for the establishment of national and state land transfer banks which will enable farmers and long-term land owners to sell the development rights on their nonfarm land. These are the has been completed. Under people who should benefit from increased prices of

Kerstetter thanked the gathering of sportsmen for their backing of a constitutional amendment that provides for non-uniform tax assessment of land -otherwise known as the Clean and Green Amendment.

than speculators and big land corporations."

"Thanks to your vital support," he said, "this amendment was passed which will result, we hope, in legislation that will encourage the farmer to remain in his land by taxing his land according to use rather than a speculative market value.'

Citing

Department of Agriculture with regard to land, Kergreenbelts, the stetter noted that the ravages of Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972 on the Penn-

sylvania countryside have been corrected.

He said the Department's Agricultural Community Recovery Effort (ACRE) this program, he said, "we employed more than 300 development land, rather people, many of them ren-than speculators and big dered jobless by the flood, to clear debris from streambeds, mend fences, repair buildings and haul tons of topsoil to washed-out areas."

Kerstetter also said farm victims of the flood were now receiving cash grants for their losses. He said the Department's Farm Flood Relief program will provide some 4,500 farmers with a total of \$8 million in direct grants.

"We began mailing the first checks out in February and should conclude the program sometime in 1, 19,360 milk, 738 fat, 3.8 April," Kerstetter reported. "The average payment has been about \$1,500 per farac- mer, perhaps a small

complishments of the amount, but in many cases this has made the difference in whether or not a farm family could remain on the

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