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I am Jim Hawkins from Lee County. From a background of study, a working experience, and personal observation I have developed, what to me, are sound principals and a strong conviction in regard to land use. Therefore, I shall address the first part of this paper to the sections of the Bill dealing with the development of a state land use policy; the creation of a department of soil conservation and land use; the formation of a state land use policy commission.

My wife and I serve a temporary stewardship over some 780 acres of land typical of that found along Iowa's southern border - reasonably level areas rolling land, steep slopes timbered with hardwoods. Over eons of time the soils of this area have been created by the actions of wind, water, ice, and the deterioration of plant and animal material.

Truly the Creator did richly bless this nation, this state and its people with resource treasures. His infinite wisdom made provision for the interrelationship of soil, water, air, forest, plant, and animal life in the composition of our total environment. But historically has the American treated these blessings as renewable, rechargeable resources? On the contrary, from the very beginning of our history he has hacked and sawed, chopped and hewed, shot and trapped, gouged and dug, blasted and bulldozed his extravagant and wasteful way across the face of nature. The American has done this for many reasons always subduing his twinge of conscience by taking refuge in the 28th verse of the first chapter of Gene His supportive reasoning for his destructive actions being that God put it all here to serve man, to use as man best saw fit.

The land that my wife and I presently have title to had, for the most part, been utilized in just such a manner. As a commodity to be used, mis used, abused with little or no concern for the well-being of future genera

Since we found this land in a depleted, exhausted condition, I would like, as a citizen, to offer the following testimony of the important role played by the local Soil Conservation District in bringing about the restoration of this land as a profitable and productive unit of food and fiber.

For the past 24 years I have been a faithful volunteer cooperator with the local Soil Conservation District. From the beginning the District Conservationists and the District Commissioners have worked with me in the development of a land use plan grounded in two basic environmental principles: use land within its scientifically determined capabilities, based on soil surveys and their interpretations, and treat land according to its needs for protection and development.

Once this basic plan was developed, I, as the owner, assumed personal responsibility for its implementation on a scheduled basis, always cognizant of the flexibility of the plan to adjust, adapt, to changing circumstances and human needs.

Relying entirely upon the technical expertise of the local District Conservationist for design and lay-out we have, by working together, been able to establish this record of accomplishment over the years:

- 10 impoundments to control water run-off and provide water for livestock and recreation
- 2½ miles of diversion terraces
- 2 miles of tile outlet terraces
- 83 acres of contouring
- 225 acres of renovated, improved pasture
- 5.5 acres of wildlife habitat
- 2.05 acres of waterway shaping

I would be remiss if I did not call attention to the uniqueness of the District Program in its authority to call upon other local, state, and

federal agencies for technical and financial assistance in the conservation and development of our resources. Some of the agencies involved in the above achievement are:

1. The REAP Program in providing financial assistance.
2. The County Extension Service in recommending seeding species for pasture improvement and fertilizer recommendations for stand establishment and maintenance.
3. The State Conservation Commission for site location and in the planting of shrubs and grasses for the food and protection of wildlife and for the stocking of farm ponds with game fish.
4. The Forestry Service for inspection of timber stands and their recommendations for improving the timber yield. Their suggested harvesting methods that would afford the greatest protection to this highly erosive land.

Beneficial and highly important side effects resulting from this cooperative effort of planned land use has been a healthy ^{economic} input into the local business community - the suppliers, the contractors, the equipment operators, the buyers of grain and livestock. Most importantly, the program has assured for future generations the continued production of food and fiber under the management of the family type farm. It has made available to the urban users of land a resource of recreation, relaxation, esthetic enjoyment, and open space. And finally, and most significantly, this cooperative, purposeful effort of many facets of our society has taken a segment of land which a bit more than a score of years ago had much of its surface area abandoned to ugly gullies and scrubby, worthless timber and restored it to a production level this past year in excess of one-half million pounds of meat to grace the tables of the consuming public.

Certainly one discerns here not only an ability to plan the wise and prudent use of land but also the ability to plan comprehensively. The knowledge of the district officials, the advantages of their organizational arrangements with cooperating local, state, and federal agencies, and their ability to represent the sense of the community provide a tested and proven

vehicle to utilize in the development of a land use policy.

I submit this working experience as some small evidence of my deep concern and my strong personal conviction of the pressing need for the enactment of a state land use policy. I believe the results do indicate the wisdom of developing a land use plan and implementing it properly.

For the past four and one-half years I have represented Lee County as a Soil Conservation District Commissioner. As a result of the enlightenment I have received through this service I am prompted at this point to express my gratitude to the land use study committee for their wisdom and good judgment in turning their attention to the Soil Conservation Committee, the Soil Conservation Department, and the District Program for the formulation, administration, guidance, and implementation of a state land use policy.

Historically the districts evolved out of a national awareness of the need for the conservation of our soil and water resources. Here in Iowa the 100 Soil Conservation Districts represent a going organization of considerable size and tremendous vitality. The 500 soil conservation district commissioners come from many walks of life, ranging through land owners and operators, attorneys, educators, businessmen, and homemakers. With steadfastness of purpose they have labored for more than 30 years to reach their present level of strength.

Districts have amassed a voluminous body of technical data and experience of great value in the management of soil, water, forest, and wildlife resources. They thoroughly understand the need for conservation on rural lands which in Iowa comprise some 94% of the total land area. District officials know what conservation means and what it can mean to Iowa communities and metropolitan areas. Since the enactment of legislation in 1970 to include cities and towns in the district program, some 400 governmental units in Iowa have received assistance. As a matter of fact

in Iowa City where we are meeting today, assistance was given to the city in developing alternatives to control flooding on Ralston Creek and in formulating an ordinance to control sediment.

Out of long experience and patient negotiations districts have constructed a network of cooperative working arrangements with state, local, federal, and private resource management agencies. These agreements represent patterns of joint action that are essential in carrying on an adequate resource development program. An example of the outgrowth of this kind of arrangement is the districts ability to work effectively with larger areas of land and groups of people necessitated by the passage in 1954 of Public Law 566--the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. In recent years districts have taken on the responsibility for sponsoring Resource Conservation and Development Projects, a region wide concept of community and economic development.

And finally, the district program is staffed with professional people who have made a career of conservation. They bring to the program a great working tradition and a dimension of character etched in commitment and dedication. But perhaps more importantly the district receives the voluntary participation of hundreds of concerned, enthusiast local people in the management of resource affairs. To me it has demonstrated a great potential for democratic self-government.

Surely it is wise, more efficient, and less costly to have directed the responsibility for the development of the Bill to a department that already exists. A department that I have demonstrated is uniquely structured to gain the maximum of local participation; has matured the the crucible of long experience, and is constantly updating its program through inventories and evaluations to meet the changing needs of all our people. I trust that it is the intent of the study committee in the reorganization of the Department to include land use to leave the functions of the Department

of Soil Conservation and their relationship with the state administration and the legislature continue in much the same way as they are now. I refer specifically to their right to prepare, present, and support budgets directly.

Turning now to other provisions of the Bill I note that under Section 10 - State Coordinating Council - Membership and Duties it is indicated that the membership will come from those agencies having "jurisdiction of land". Is it the intent to include all agencies - those who exercise proprietary control (Conservation Commission, Highway Commission, Dept. of Social Services) as well as those having resource management responsibilities or regulatory authority (Dept. of Environmental Quality, Cons. Commission, Iowa Natural Resources Council, Iowa Geological Survey, Dept. of Soil Conservation). A clarification of what agencies are referred to and their purpose would be helpful.

Under Section 16 provision is made for the formation of a ^{County} Land Use Policy Commission. I applaud the inclusion of District Commissioners on the Commission. As I have indicated, the scope of the district program is broad and comprehensive. They have the organizational structure and the expertise to work with large areas of land and groups of people as is Watershed and RC&D Projects. They can, and do, render valuable assistance to municipalities, boards, commissions, private agencies, and individuals.

I am troubled, however, by what appears to me to be a duplication of effort and expense. I refer to the county planning commissions presently organized and operative in some of our counties. What is to become of them? Would it be reasonable to assume that the county planning commission might in effect become the county land use policy commission? Some clarification on this matter would be helpful.

Throughout the bill I note completion dates for the preparation and adoption of policy and policy guidelines at the state and county level

are extremely short. For instance, from the time of passage of the Bill to the time of submission of policy recommendations, etc., to the legislature spans an elapsed time of perhaps six months. In my judgement this time element is much too restrictive. I am sure that it is the intent of the legislative study committee to provide ample time for study, examination, and evaluation as policy and policy guidelines and criteria are being developed. Further consideration of this point might be valuable.

One other thought - since soil surveys have been established as valuable tools in enhancing the decision making process concerning land capabilities and land use limitations, I would respectfully suggest that the state, as a minimum effort, sustain its current rate of participation in the costs of completing these soil surveys.

May I pay tribute to the Land Use Policy Study Committee by concluding with a quotation from Stewart Udall's book "The Quiet Crisis."

"Each generation has its own rendezvous with the land, for despite our fee titles and claims of ownership, we are brief tenants on this planet. By choice, or by default, we will carve out a land legacy for our heirs. We can misuse the land and diminish the usefulness of our resources, or we can create a world in which physical affluence and affluence of the spirit go hand in hand."