

Recommended Action on National Capital Region Land Conservation Act of 2009

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Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy
Committee Chair Cathy Drzyzgula

Metropolitan Development Policy Committee Chair
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“National Capital Region Land Conservation Act of 2009”

HR 2986 authored and Introduced by Rep. Moran - VA
Re-authorization of 1930s era Capper-Cramton Act

Co – sponsors:

- Norton -- DC
- Wolf, Wittman, Connolly -- VA
- Hoyer, Van Hollen, Edwards -- MD

S 1525 – Introduced by Sen. Ben Cardin – MD

Co-sponsors:

- Webb, Warner – VA
- Milkulski - MD

Elements of the Act:

- **Authorizes** appropriations of \$50M/yr. for 5 years
- Up to 50-50 cost share --- leverage to obtain \$'s from non federal sources
- Only for land acquisition and related costs
- Criteria for grant awards established in Act
- Eligibility – VA, MD, WVA and DC and local governments in Washington DC Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by Census – scope will grow as region expands
- Administered by U.S. Department of the Interior

Qualifying Lands:

- Recreational parks - Fish and wildlife habitats
- Open Space - Watershed protection
- Green space corridors - Historic preservation
- Agriculture - Sensitive environments
- Forests - Public recreation (e.g. trails, boat launching sites)

Why Capper Cramton?

- Federal commitment to providing parkland and other public lands in Washington DC metropolitan area date back to early 1900s
- Capper-Cramton legislation developed from 1925 to 1930.
- Created an effective means by which to implement regional plans under National Capital Planning Commission leadership
- DC, MD and - to lesser extent VA - made good use of the authority through the 1960s
- Statute is still in place



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A river flows through the bottom left corner. The land is divided into various green fields and forested areas. In the background, there are rolling hills and a small town or village. The sky is clear and blue.

Potential benefits to water quality include:

- Increasing the extent of riparian buffers that mitigate the impact of stormwater runoff and provide improved habitat for various types of wildlife
- Preserving open spaces, such as forest land, that help filter water and decrease nutrient and sediment pollution.
- Protecting drinking water supplies by providing buffers from pollution
- Protecting ground water recharge

■ Parks and Open Spaces in the National Capital Region

