

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: August 26, 2009
Received: July 23, 2009
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 809f9524
Comments Due: August 03, 2009
Submission Type: Web

568

Docket: CCC_FRDOC_0001
Recently Posted CCC Rules and Notices.

Comment On: CCC_FRDOC_0001-0095
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Document: CCC_FRDOC_0001-DRAFT-1886
Comment on FR Doc # E9-15684

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Government Agency Type: Local
Government Agency: Greenbelt Advisory Commission

General Comment

I am a member of the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Advisory Commission. I have read the proposed changes to the FRPP rules suggested by the American Farmland Trust, and I endorse them.

Our Greenbelt program here in Ann Arbor has used nine FRPP grants, amounting to more than \$5,000,000, since 2005, to acquire development rights to farmland near the city. We have a track record of success, and the certification program suggested by the AFT would apply to us.

This program would increase our flexibility, which would allow (for example) tailored easements to encourage local food and small farming, as called for in our strategic plan.

The rule changes would also lower our costs, while still allowing the proper due diligence and monitoring of the easements, which furthers the goals of the program, without the degree of federal micromanagement some landowners have complained of. When our overhead costs are lower, we can preserve more farmland!

These comments represent my own opinion, not those of the commission on which I serve.