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## Conservation pays off.

Land for Tomorrow, a coalition representing just about everybody who drinks water, breathes air and enjoys looking at things other than brick and concrete, has issued a sobering report.

If the public gets behind some major initiatives to conserve significant swaths of North Carolina, it will be rewarded. If it does not, it will pay dearly for that negligence.

Ten years ago, state agencies paid an average of \$699 per acre to rescue land from development. Two years ago, the average was \$2,691. Put off conservation and the cost of what's left to conserve will soar again. We will also pay in lost agriculture, jobs, flood control, wildlife and recreation, water purity, air quality and quality of life.

Some fiscal "savings" are simply unaffordable. Let's get busy.

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