

Observer Forum: Letters to editor

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State support necessary in effort to preserve land

The writer is executive director, Conservation Trust for North Carolina.

"Bad times for builders may help preserve land" (Feb. 12 editorial) rightly points out what may be the only silver lining in the current economy: Prices for conservation lands have dropped and more properties are available.

But opportunities to save these special places will go unrealized without sufficient support for the state's proven conservation trust funds.

Conserving land is a crucial to our long-term economic health. Abundant natural areas are the foundation for our two largest industries, agriculture and tourism.

Land conservation prevents pollution of drinking water supplies. Creation of parks and greenways nurtures public health and creates a quality of life that attracts new industries.

State funding will be essential to realizing the vision of the Carolina Thread Trail linking communities throughout the Charlotte region. We urge the legislature to construct a budget that continues substantial investments in conservation trusts.

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<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/opinion/story/556864.html>