During the 1960's problems of environmental pollution emerged as a major nutritional issue, and it now seems evident that in the 1970's this issue will be broadened to include this politically sensitive question of land-use planning and control. Senator Henry M. Jackson, (D-Wash.) a key legislator on environmental matters, already has won approval of the Senate Interior Committee for the initial draft of a bill to require the states to make a major commitment to land use planning and regulation generally. This measure would require that the states establish an agency for the planning and control of land use and submit a state land-use plan to a new cabinet level Land and Water Resources Planning Council.

The land-use policy bill recently approved by the Senate Interior Committee is concerned with land-use practices generally and would require the states, as a condition for receiving funds under federal programs having a substantial environmental impact, to establish enforceable land-use plans. Its aim is to end the haphazard process by which developmental activities have proceeded in the past, with forest lands and open space around cities often having been lost to urban sprawl, with major natural areas such as the Florida Everglades threatened by water projects and proposed jet ports, and with power plants built with little regard for protecting air and water quality or scenic amenities.