

Answer by letter-Gardner

December 9, 1970

OPINION LETTER NO. 558

Honorable Raymond L. Skaggs
State Representative
District No. 150
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101



Dear Representative Skaggs:

This letter is in response to your request for an opinion concerning the valuation of forest croplands under the State Forestry Law.

You have suggested that land may have been initially placed under the forest croplands program when such land had a value in excess of ten dollars per acre, as prohibited by Section 254.040, RSMo 1969. Under the law, the Conservation Commission is charged with the duty of ascertaining the per acre valuation. The law is admittedly meager in outlining formulae by which the Commission is to place a value on the "land alone" in such instances. Consequently, it must rest within the sound discretion of the Commission to employ just and equitable formulae.

Yours very truly,

JOHN C. DANFORTH
Attorney General