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STATEMENT BY SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN  
GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
November 1, 1978

Today we are here for a very historic occasion, an occasion that typifies the President's commitment not only to a strong Rural America, but to cooperation and coordination among levels of government in strengthening Rural America.

The agreement being signed today obligates four agencies of the federal government -- Farmers' Home Administration, the Housing and Urban Development Department, Economic Development Administration, and the Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration -- to work closely with the State of North Carolina in developing and executing programs to meet the needs of those who reside outside the urban areas, an unprecedented development in the history of our nation.

This agreement does not mean that more money will be spent; rather, this agreement means that money that is spent will be used more effectively. For once in our history, officials from three levels of government -- federal, state, and local -- will be working hand-in-hand, rather than duplicating each other or working at cross purposes.

The bond that is being created today comes as a result of the vision of many people, especially our

governor, Jim Hunt. It should come as no surprise that the first agreement of this kind in the nation is being signed here in North Carolina.

The partnership we are witnessing today will complement the "Balanced Growth" strategy that the people of North Carolina have worked so hard to develop. Clearly, this agreement will encourage this process and maximize the efforts of all who are involved.

From my standpoint as Chairman of the Rural Housing Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate, I realize full well how such an approach is so essential to make government serve people.

This agreement is a tribute to others as well, including the Assistant Secretary for Rural Development, Alex Mercure. He has worked diligently to achieve this objective along with Gordon Cavanaugh, Administrator of Farmers' Home.

We are entering into a period where federal resources will be limited. For better or worse, we are going to have to make do with what we have. Through cooperation, we can do more, deliver services more efficiently and better serve our people.

I commend all of those present for their contribution to this imaginative and responsive effort.