

FEDERAL OIL SHALE PROGRAM

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.,
Glenview, Ill., September 13, 1967.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Izaak Walton League of America appreciates the opportunity to comment on Federal oil shale policy. We respectfully request that this letter be included in the hearing record.

Enclosed is a resolution adopted by the League in 1965, stating our belief that development of oil shale resources should proceed under terms of the Mineral Leasing Act rather than the mining laws.

This is the League's basic policy on oil shale. Our membership approved it for a number of reasons. Heading the list is the fact that the "oil shale country" possesses many non-mineral resource values which are critical to its people and, indeed, the entire nation. It is, for example, quite clear that oil shale development must be most carefully planned to prevent adverse impact on the water resources situation in the Colorado Basin. Similarly, this vast region contains enormous wildlife and public use values and potentials. Because the region is so large, because of the public resource values it possesses, and because of resource interrelationships, we believe the public must control oil shale development.

In connection with this, the League recognized the immense dollar values of the oil shale and other mineral resources occurring therewith. To dispose of them under the mining laws would surely yield minimum fiscal returns to the Federal government.

Though we have no firm policy in this area other than the enclosed resolution on revenues to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the League questions whether 52½% of revenue from oil shale leases ought to go into the Reclamation Fund—and whether the 37½% available to the States ought to be used solely for roads and schools. A public resource of this magnitude, it seems to us, ought to be available to meet a variety of needs.

The League is aware that the Land and Water Conservation Fund should be more adequately funded. We know that the Bureau of Land Management, which administers the oil shale lands, has a scant operational budget. We are unable to advise the Committee precisely how oil shale revenues might be divided—but we do ask whether they could not serve a number of valid resource purposes.

Thank you for considering our views.

Respectfully,

J. W. PENFOLD,
Conservation Director.

RESOLUTION NO. 9 OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA, 45TH ANNUAL
CONVENTION, JULY 12-15, 1967, MILWAUKEE, WIS.

To Improve the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act by Providing Additional Financing and Adding the Bureau of Land Management as an Eligible Participant

Whereas, the receipts available to the Land and Water Conservation Fund have been proven inadequate to meet even the highest priority needs; and,

Whereas, escalating land values and many newly authorized Federal, State, and local park, recreation and wildlife areas have made funding even more critical, with no respite in sight; and,

Whereas, the problem of obtaining access for the public to the Federal Lands for recreational purposes is rapidly becoming more acute due to prohibitions, restrictions and fees imposed by adjacent or intermingled private landowners; and,

Whereas, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act requires that fees be collected for the use of recreation facilities administered by the Bureau of Land Management and deposited into the Fund, but fails to provide for reallocations from the Fund to permit the purchase of lands and easements needed by the Bureau of Land Management for very important public recreation, public access and fish and wildlife programs;

Now therefore be it resolved, by the Izaak Walton League of America in convention assembled this 14th day of July, 1967 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, that it urges the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act be amended to (1) authorize the deposit into the fund of all continental shelf mineral receipts and all un-