

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, D.C., August 14, 1967.

HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice, by no later than August 15, on H.R. 12121, a bill to amend the act of September 9, 1964 (78 Stat. 983), establishing the Public Land Law Review Commission, and for other purposes.

The vast proportions of the task assigned to the Public Land Law Review Commission by the act of September 9 could not be measured except by the criteria which have been established through the work of the Commission to this time. The Department of Justice, represented on the Advisory Council of the Commission by Assistant Attorney General Edwin L. Weisl, Jr., is aware that the Commission has labored hard and well and accomplished much, but that the greater part of its work yet remains to be done. The profound effects which a long needed revision of the land laws of the United States will have upon people of the United States, as well as the astronomical total value of the lands and natural resources involved, require that the Commission complete its task, and that it do it well. The additional \$3.3 million and 18 months which would be given to the Commission by this bill appear a realistic appraisal at this time of the requirements for these purposes. The additional provision of the bill, for taking of testimony under oath, will be a useful tool.

The Department of Justice recommends enactment of this legislation.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely,

WARREN CHRISTOPHER,
Deputy Attorney General.

GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
Washington, D.C., August 14, 1967.

HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your letter of August 8, 1967, relating to H.R. 12121, 90th Cong., a bill to amend the act of September 9, 1964 (78 Stat. 983), establishing the Public Land Law Review Commission, and for other purposes.

The Department of Defense would interpose no objection to the enactment of H.R. 12121.

Sincerely yours,

L. NIEDERLEHNER,
Acting General Counsel.