

the first instance, will be of compelling importance to the Public Land Law Review Commission itself.

While perhaps of lesser importance, Public Law 88-607 has proved useful, and should be continued until the Public Land Law Review Commission completes its studies and makes its recommendations for future policies on public land sales.

We respectfully urge therefore, Mr. Chairman, that the legislation before you be amended so as to extend the life of Public Law 88-607 and Public Law 88-608 until 6 months after the windup of the Public Land Law Review Commission.

We appreciate the privilege of presenting our views.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Mr. Penfold. I have no questions. Senator Jordan.

Senator JORDAN. Yes. I don't think there is any question in anyone's mind that any acts that had expiration dates corresponding with the expiration date of the Public Land Law Review Commission should be extended if the Public Land Law Review Commission is extended. I don't know how anyone could be opposed to likewise extending them.

Senator CHURCH. It seems logical.

Thank you, Mr. Penfold.

Mr. PENFOLD. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Our next witness is Franklin L. Orth who is executive vice president of the National Rifle Association of Washington, D.C.

STATEMENT OF FRANKLIN L. ORTH, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. ORTH. Mr. Chairman, Senator Jordan, members of the committee, the National Rifle Association of America numbers among its 850,000 members hundreds of thousands of ardent hunters who are vitally concerned with the provisions of H.R. 12121 and S. 2255 presently before the committee. We, as a national sportsman's association, perhaps more than any other group, speak for and represent the interests of many of the recreational users of public land. We believe that the work of the Public Land Law Review Commission should be continued until the much needed task of reviewing public land laws, policies and practices has been successfully concluded. We believe that it is of vital and lasting interest to all Americans that all policies and practices affecting the public domain—fully one-third of the land area of the Nation—be scrutinized by the Commission. We would go further and recommend strongly to the committee that the bill now being considered be amended to extend, also for 18 months, the authority of the Classification and Multiple Use Act of 1964 and the Public Sales Act, under which the Bureau of Land Management is proceeding with the orderly work of reviewing millions of acres of public domain and classifying them either for retention and management or for disposal.

We appreciate the opportunity to join with other conservation groups represented here today to appear before this committee and express our views in support of extending the life of the Public Land Law Review Commission in its full strength and increasing its operating budget, an issue which will have an historic and lasting effect on our country.