

In closing, Mr. Chairman, it should be pointed out that there is some confusion over the effect of the classifications that are being made. The classifications that have received final publication neither dispose of public lands nor lock them up so that they may not be available for valid programs in the future. Rather, the classifications merely represent the determination of resources professionals in the BLM as to which of its lands are best suited for retention. Formal actions to dispose or to retain will have to be taken under other authorities; they cannot be taken under this act.

The single desirable result of these temporary classifications to retain, however, is that for the first time the BLM can concentrate on specific areas of the public domain, undertake resources inventories of the lands involved, and prepare management programs to facilitate all of the worthwhile uses listed in the Classification and Multiple Use Act.

Certainly, there can be no substantial criticism of a program such as this that assures that the interests of all of the people are being protected.

We strongly urge, Mr. Chairman, that the bill under consideration be amended to authorize the parallel extension of the Classification and Multiple Use and the Public Sales Acts.

I thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Poole, for your testimony. I think you make your position very clear. I have no questions.

Senator JORDAN. I have no questions.

Senator CHURCH. Very well.

Are there any other witnesses who wish to be heard? If not, I would like to include in the record at this point a letter that has been received from Congressman Morris K. Udall of Arizona, in favor of the bill; also a letter from Congressman Walter S. Baring, of Nevada, endorsing the measure.

(The letters referred to follow:)

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., October 24, 1967.

HON. FRANK CHURCH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR FRANK: I have your letter of October 19 advising of the October 26 hearings on various bills to extend the term of the Public Land Law Review Commission. I'll be unable to attend and testify but would ask that you submit this letter as stating my views.

The work of the Public Land Law Review Commission is, in my judgment, vitally important to the future of this country. Despite a most diligent effort by the Commission and its staff, it is now very clear that the original legislation does not give us time enough to complete our work.

I, therefore, strongly support the pending legislation which would grant the Commission additional time.

Sincerely,

MORRIS K. UDALL.