

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report and that enactment of S. 1401, if amended as recommended in the Interior report, would be consistent with the administration's objectives.

Sincerely yours,

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN, *Secretary.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D.C., January 5, 1968.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This responds to your request for the views of the Bureau of the Budget concerning S. 1401, "To amend Title I of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, and for other purposes."

In the report which the Department of the Interior is submitting to your committee on this bill, the Department recommends that it be amended in a number of respects. The most important of these amendments would authorize, for the next five years, deposits to the Land and Water Conservation Fund from outer continental shelf oil receipts in such amounts as would yield, when added to current revenue sources, an annual input of revenue to the fund of \$200 million.

If amended in the manner recommended in the Department's report, the enactment of S. 1401 would be consistent with the Administration's objectives. As noted in the Department's report, current budgetary constraints will likely preclude for the present, appropriations requests at the \$200 million level.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP S. HUGHES,
Deputy Director.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., January 4, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: This responds to your request for a report from this Department on S. 1401, a bill "To amend title I of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, and for other purposes."

We strongly recommend the enactment of S. 1401, with the amendments indicated below.

The principal purpose of the bill is to help overcome the problem of the rapidly increasing cost of Federal and federally assisted park and recreation areas financed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This Fund was created in 1965 primarily to assist States and Federal agencies in acquiring and developing outdoor recreation lands and waters to meet the needs of the American people.

The problem of land price escalation for public park and recreation areas has been of increasing concern over the past few years to the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government, State and local governments, conservation and recreation organizations, and the general public. The President, in his message of January 30, 1967, to the Congress on Protecting our Natural Heritage stated as follows:

"We are seriously hampered by rapidly rising land costs when we seek new areas for recreation. Average land prices are increasing at a rate of almost ten percent a year. The cost of land for recreation is spiraling at a considerably higher rate. This diminishes the effectiveness of our program of State grants and Federal purchases of land for parks and recreation areas. We must act promptly to assure that we can acquire needed recreation lands before the price becomes prohibitive. The most effective means of controlling the increase in the price of land is to acquire the lands quickly after authorization by the Congress."

The Senate and House Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs and Appropriations have also expressed concern over the spiraling costs of acquiring park and recreation area lands throughout the Nation, and have recognized the need for rapid acquisition of property in authorized areas in order to help reduce the effect of price escalation.