

I am pleased that Missouri has actively participated in the State Grant Program which is operated on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis. In the three year period from January 1, 1965 to January 1, 1968, 124 Missouri projects qualified for assistance. These projects total \$5,113,579 and will benefit citizens in all areas of the State.

The Federal share of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is used for the acquisition of outdoor recreation land in National Forests, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges and other Federal recreation areas. Missouri also has benefited by Federal purchases under this program. Expenditures of the National Park Service for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways total \$3,134,990. Expenditures of the Forest Service for Clark and Mark Twain National Forests are \$1,580,474.

Though Missouri and the Nation have received much assistance from the Fund, the money available has fallen short of the demand and is continuing to fall further behind. In the 89th Congress, 23 recreation areas requiring an estimated \$119 million were authorized. The estimated needs of the three Federal agencies are over \$1 billion for the next 10 years. The States, according to information from the Department of the Interior, estimate their needs for the next 10 years at the level of \$7.1 billion.

Without one major factor, it might be possible to delay acquisitions until funds become available from the present sources. This factor is the soaring cost of land. This problem is most clearly demonstrated in the case of Point Reyes National Seashore. The estimated cost of the Seashore in 1962 was \$14 million. By the time the acquisition is completed, expenses may run in excess of \$55 million.

In some areas the rising costs are a natural result of increasing population. In others, the costs represent the activities of speculators buying up land before the necessary Federal funds are available.

At this time income of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is represented by the sale of surplus Federal real property, unclaimed Federal tax on fuel used in pleasure boats, and the system of entrance and user fees at Federal recreation areas.

S. 1401 which I am pleased to support would amend the Act by adding to the Fund for a five year period the revenues accruing under the Outer Continental Shelf Act of 1953, certain revenues from the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and the national forests. At the present time these funds are deposited in the United States Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the Committee to act affirmatively on the most effective measure possible.

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER,
Washington, D.C., February 6, 1968.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: While it was not possible for me to testify at the hearings held on S. 1401, amendments to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, I wish to take this means of endorsing this important legislation and urge early and favorable consideration by your Committee.

The expanding recreation needs of the American people are one of the most difficult problems facing those charged with resource development in our Nation. The enactment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 was a major step forward. The Act earmarked as revenues for the Fund the proceeds from the sale of surplus Federal real property, the unclaimed Federal tax on fuel used in pleasure boats, and the proceeds from a system of entrance and user fees at Federal recreation areas. The public demand for more and better recreation areas has far exceeded funding now available at both the State and Federal level. It is my understanding that Federal and State funding over the next ten years will require in excess of \$7 billion for acquisition and development over the next 10 years.

S. 1401, if enacted, will provide additional sources of Federal funds for a five-year period. Making use of the revenues from the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953, unearmarked revenues from the Mineral Leasing Act and the national forests seems to be a wise expansion of the authority contained in the Fund Act. Any specific limitations on the amounts might best be set by the Committee after the thorough review now underway.