

fund. I urge you to give favorable consideration to Senate bill 1401.

I would also like to file a favorable statement on Senate bill 1401 from Gov. William L. Guy, and also from the North Dakota Water Users Association.

The CHAIRMAN. That will be included at this point, Mr. Greenslit.

I also have a letter from the Governor submitting a resolution of the State Outdoor Recreation Agency. That will also be included.

(The documents referred to follow:)

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA,
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Bismarck, February 5, 1968.

Re S. 1401.

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Senate of the United States,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to convey to you, on behalf of the State of North Dakota, our support for S. 1401 now before your committee.

When Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund indications were that North Dakota should by now be receiving \$1½ million each year for outdoor recreation acquisition and development. We are apportioned less than half that amount.

Through our state outdoor recreation plan we have discovered that our outdoor recreation program is more than \$50 million behind the needs of our people.

The demand for outdoor recreation is increasing at fantastic rates. Our financial resources have remained almost static.

Just as demand for outdoor recreation increases, the cost of providing necessary areas and facilities also grows. Land prices are skyrocketing in our predominately rural state just as they have in metropolitan areas of the nation.

Within North Dakota there are many places where land should be purchased soon to provide our people with a place to enjoy the out-of-doors. Many more tracts should be bought so their historic or scenic values can be saved for our future generations.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act has been important to North Dakota. We have purchased land to expand the state park that was the starting point of Custer's last march. Had we not acted on this acquisition the land would have been used for a housing development. Land has been bought to form new recreation reservoirs in several locations, with a full range of land and water oriented activities. The 5,000 acres of forest land we were able to buy with a matching grant from the Fund provides recreation for today and will save these woodlands for our tomorrows.

We share the federal grants with small and large communities across the state. They are anxious to use this program to provide their people with opportunities they would not otherwise have. In the next few days we expect to receive a proposal that would reserve for recreation and open space several tracts in one of our largest cities.

North Dakota has consistently been one of the leading States in the outdoor recreation program. We have obligated all of our apportionments and have projects waiting for release of the Fiscal 1969 funds. Many states have patterned projects and comprehensive planning innovations after those which have originated in North Dakota.

The Fund has done much for North Dakota, but much more remains to be done. Increased revenues will benefit us and the rest of the nation. I urge you to do everything in your power to assure that S. 1401 will be enacted into law.

WILLIAM L. GUY,
Governor.