The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Joseph Jaeger, Jr., chairman of the Missouri State Inter-Agency Council for Outdoor Recreation, has submitted a statement for inclusion in the hearing record. It will be printed at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH JAEGER, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

The land and water conservation fund program has been received with great enthusiasm in Missouri and has served to accelerate action for outdoor recreation in many extremely worthwhile ways.

Our state ranks third, among all the states and U.S. territories, in terms of the total number of approved grant-in-aid projects; our Inter-Agency Council has allocated the State's share of the fund to 107 projects; and well over half of these projects are being carried out by Missouri's political subdivisions, cities and counties. Our state allocation from the fund has been so broadly shared that each of the fourteen recreation planning regions of Missouri has received assistance for acquisition or development of outdoor recreation projects.

Grants-in-aid from the fund have served to accelerate outdoor recreation action in inspiring ways:

City officials have named new park boards to organize, plan, and complete local projects to buy land for parks and develop facilities.

Voters have approved local general obligation bonds to finance these projects. In our state, successful bond elections are an indication of overwhelming citizen approval because of the State Constitution's requirement for a two-thirds majority on general obligation bonds. Voters in the past two years have approved bonds far in excess of the amount available in Missouri's annual share of the land and water conservation fund.

Some projects have been financed locally by substantial donations of cash or land where interest was created through the possibility of a grant-in-aid from the fund. Matching money for a new State park was raised by local donation. The amount of money available from private trusts and estates or other donors far exceeds the money which has been available from the land and water conservation fund. But grants-in-aid for part of costs do direct these gifts toward needed outdoor recreation projects.

Appropriations from Missouri general tax revenue for State parks were larger last year than ever before, and the possibility of grants-in-aid from the fund has encouraged this appropriation.

Our Legislature has acted to create a thirteen member Inter-Agency Council for Outdoor Recreation to be the central focus for outdoor recreation in the State. The Governor and the Legislature have appropriated money to develop a state plan for outdoor recreation and to administer this federal aid program. (Missouri's plan has been accepted by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, making our state eligible for funds to December, 1970. We are now planning an improved, up-dated version of the plan.)

All of this effort has meant the planned outdoor recreation expenditure of more than eight million dollars of federal and local money. It has also meant an increase in the recognition of immediate needs.

Unfortunately, this fine program seems to be running out of gas. Actual allocations of cash to Missouri from the fund in the last two fiscal years have fallen short of the apportionment which we were told might be available. Our council is faced with a backlog of $400,000 in requests for funds for projects now ready for immediate action. In addition, we have almost one million dollars in federal assistance requests pending. We have reached the point where we are advising applicants that they should not expect approval of requests earlier than eighteen months after they submit applications. When land acquisition is being planned in fast growing urban areas, this is too long to wait. Subdividers and land developers can move much faster than those who would save land for parks.

Our past record is proof of the need for an increase in the amount of money in Missouri's share of the land and water conservation fund. In addition to more money, there is also a need for a more reliable source of receipts to the fund. This would allow more deliberate planning for allocation of the State's share. We believe the receipts named in S. 4501 will meet this need and urge the committee to approve this change in the fund act.