

STATEMENT OF NEY C. LANDRUM, DIRECTOR, FLORIDA OUTDOOR
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mr. LANDRUM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am Ney C. Landrum, director of the Florida Outdoor Recreational Development Council—an agency of the government of the State of Florida. The council is composed of the Governor, as chairman, and Florida's six independently elected cabinet officials, serving ex officio. This is the agency primarily responsible for planning, coordinating and financing State-level outdoor recreation programs in Florida. I also serve as the official Florida liaison officer to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and am currently the first vice president of the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers.

I am here today to speak in favor of S. 1401, and the important purpose this legislation is designed to accomplish.

When the land and water conservation fund program was first established, through enactment of Public Law 88-578, it offered a real hope for meeting one of the day's most pressing social needs: the provision of adequate public recreational opportunity in America's great outdoors. It was hailed by many as one of the most significant accomplishments of the 88th Congress. The States and local governments across the country were heartened indeed by the lower-level emphasis of the program, and—though anticipating a timelag of possibly several years for the myriad wheels of local government to turn—began gearing up to take full advantage of the new opportunities before them.

Much good has resulted from the land and water conservation fund program over the past several years, but still its great promise remains unfulfilled. The problem has not been one of purpose, or scope, or direction—but one of degree. The fund simply has been far too inadequate for even the Federal agency programs which look to it for support, much less for the numerous State and local governments counting on it for substantial assistance.

In order to serve its originally intended purpose with greatest effect and true success, the land and water conservation fund must be characterized by three important factors:

- (1) It must be provided with sufficient funds to support dependent programs at suitable levels (adequacy).
- (2) It must deal not in anticipated funds which may or may not materialize, but should be funded in advance so that grants to lower-level governments can be guaranteed (dependability).
- (3) It must be able to make funds available for approved projects—Federal and non-Federal—with a minimum of delay and red tape (efficiency).

S. 1401 is primarily concerned with the first of these three factors, which is undeniably the most important. Without adequate funding, the noble objectives of the program can never be reached, regardless of the improvement effected in other areas. The following comments, therefore, will be confined to the matter of increasing the sources of revenue for the land and water conservation fund.