

rent biennial. One major reason for this is that the anticipated funds from the land and water conservation fund is smaller than we had available in 1966-68.

At this point, without going further and repeating some of the things that Senator Bemiss has said—and it is contained in his report—let me narrow the view to our nearby northern Virginia, which is a part of this Metropolitan Washington urban complex, and an area that receives millions of visitors from all over the country.

We, like other urban areas, are in the midst of the disappearing land and increasing population, and we need to move fast if we are going to acquire park lands to meet the needs and desires of our people. The 5-year land acquisition program of our Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, beginning with this current fiscal year, calls for the acquisition of 7,600 acres of regional parks by 1972.

It contemplates cooperative financing from the land and water conservation fund, 50 percent, State appropriations to the Virginia commission of 30 percent, 20 percent provided by local appropriations of four participating local governments.

The total cost of this land acquisition program would be about \$20 million, of which half, it is hoped, would come from the land and water conservation fund in the coming 5 years.

Areas in which the State division of parks and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority plan to concentrate their land acquisition efforts are within 30 miles of where we are sitting now.

These are the Mason Neck Peninsula on the Potomac, just below Fort Belvoir, where the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Virginia Division of Parks, and Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority plan the acquisition of adjacent areas totaling nearly 5,000 acres for public parks and wildlife refuge. The second area is the shore line of a 20-mile-long, fresh-water Occoquan Reservoir on the boundary between Fairfax and Prince William Counties, where the regional park authority plans to acquire 3,500 acres as an extension of its present 1,800-acre Bull Run Occoquan Regional Park, and the third area is the Palisades of the Potomac in Arlington and Fairfax Counties where the regional park authority hopes to add to its 50-acres Potomac Palisades Regional Park in Arlington, and to acquire additional acreage in Fairfax County.

I realize that I have pinpointed only one small portion of the entire country, but I believe it is a dramatic example of the need to preserve open space in our urbanizing areas before it is too late. Enactment of S. 1401 would greatly help to meet this need, and would provide further stimulation for increased appropriations of State and local funds, thereby multiplying the Federal dollar.

I thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much. We appreciate your testimony.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM M. LIGHTSEY, ARLINGTON, VA.

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members: I am William M. Lightsey of Arlington, Virginia. I am Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. I am also a member of the House of Delegates of the Virginia General Assembly, now meeting in Richmond. During the 1966 General Assembly session, I helped to marshal the legislative support needed to implement the Virginia Outdoors