

Plan. This initiated the first comprehensive State-wide program to acquire and preserve the natural resources of Virginia and to make them available for the use and enjoyment of the citizens of Virginia and of the Nation.

I am here to urge your approval of S-1401. The increased level of revenues that would accrue to the Land and Water Conservation Fund under S-1401 is sorely needed, as is the authorization for advance land purchase contracts which S-1401 would provide. Otherwise, the acquisition and preservation of land and water areas to meet the objectives of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act cannot stay ahead of the rapidly escalating land values and the disappearance of these areas under the press of the population explosion.

Last Friday and this morning, I discussed the provisions of S-1401 with our Virginia Senators Harry Byrd, Jr. and William B. Spong. The statements which State Senator Bemiss and I are making before you today carry their support.

I appreciate this opportunity to tell you how important we in Virginia believe the enactment of S-1401 is to our Commonwealth, and especially important to the urban areas such as Northern Virginia, just across the Potomac. In a few years, three-fourths of Virginia's population will be living in urban areas. This Bill is a needed and timely proposal to strengthen the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, a first line of defense in the fight to meet the fast growing demands for open space ahead of its disappearance and continued sharply rising cost.

Action now by you and the Congress is crucial to Virginia. In Richmond today the General Assembly is holding hearings on Governor Godwin's proposed budget for the coming two years. The appropriation of State funds to the Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation proposed in that budget for 1968-70 is less than that appropriated for the current biennium. This is in large part due to the fact that the level of Federal funds Virginia can expect to receive from the present provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act is significantly below that anticipated by the Act.

The initial appropriation of State funds for the newly created Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation for 1966-68 was \$4.3 million, enough to match Virginia's allocation of Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds dollar for dollar. Unless the increased revenues proposed by S-1401 are available, the Virginia allocation is expected to be only \$3 million, a reduction of 30%. The enactment of S-1401 would provide an incentive for Virginia to advance rather than retreat in its campaign to acquire and preserve its lands for public use. As this is done, the Federal dollar is doubly effective through the matching State dollar.

Now let me narrow the view to nearby Northern Virginia, a part of the Metropolitan Washington urban complex, and a part of Virginia that receives millions of visitors from all over the country. Like other urban areas of the Commonwealth, Northern Virginia is experiencing a loss of land going into development at an annual rate of 1%. At the same time, the population of the region, which includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, is growing at the rate of 5% each year. Furthermore, planners estimate that the value of land in Fairfax County is increasing at an annual rate between 5 and 10%. Many areas of the county have attained a 30% increase over the past three years.

The five-year land acquisition program of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, beginning with the current fiscal year, calls for the acquisition of 7,656 acres for regional parks by 1972. This plan contemplates cooperative financing from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, State appropriations to the Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation, and Regional Park Authority funds provided by the four participating local governments, Arlington and Fairfax counties and Falls Church and Fairfax cities. We are presently in the rather unusual position where local funds are available at a level considerably above the indicated availability of State and Federal funds.

Even with the realization of the Regional Park Authority land acquisition plan and the completion of the State Division of Parks' plan to acquire a 1,900 acre State Park on Mason Neck in Fairfax County, an additional 7,700 acres is needed to meet the need of the estimated 1972 population.

Areas in which the State Division of Parks and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority plan to concentrate their land acquisition efforts are within thirty miles of this Senate Office Building. There are (1) 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 the Northern Vir-