

Government, and yet the program and the planning and the administration are left to the State to work out.

Mr. NELSON. May I just say one other thing that has not, I believe, been covered, and that is that the land and water resources coming into existence created policies in the National Park Service and the National Forest Service of charging for services that formerly were given away free.

As long as those were given away free, we could not develop private facilities that were comparable and which will always be needed, and the Federal Government cannot supply all of the recreation needs.

Senator CHURCH. Yes, I agree with you. Thank you very much.

Mr. NELSON. Thank you. You are welcome.

(The prepared statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF ROBERT F. NELSON, MANAGING DIRECTOR, VIRGINIA TRAVEL COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Senate, my name is Robert F. Nelson. I am the Managing Director of the Virginia Travel Council, a non-profit, statewide travel organization, consisting of 35 segments of private businesses serving, or otherwise dependent on, travel.

I am here at the request of the Board of the Virginia Travel Council to represent to your committee, and to our members of the Congress, that our membership requests you to take such action as may be required to expedite the passage of Senate bill 1401—a bill “to amend title 1 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.”

As you know, the purpose of Senate Bill 1401 is to increase the funds that will be available under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, so that the development of outdoor recreational facilities throughout the nation (by both federal and state agencies) may continue to expand.

This action is of paramount importance to the 22,000 businesses that are licensed in Virginia to serve 40 million visitors who come each year to Virginia. Without the knowledge that at least \$4 million of federal funds may be available for matching purposes, the Virginia General Assembly, *now in session*, is unlikely to place this sum at the disposal of our Virginia Commission on Outdoor Recreation. The Commission has made this request in a sincere desire to maintain a program that has inspired all in Virginia by its splendid progress during the past two years.

The Virginia Commission on Outdoor Recreation was established two years ago by our Virginia General Assembly. In coordinated effort with other state and federal agencies, it has launched a plan to build more than thirty State Parks; to expand our hunting and freshwater fishing facilities at a rate of approximately \$2 million a year for ten years; to vastly expand the recreational facilities in communities where large concentrations of Armed Forces personnel and their families reside; to create a scenic highway system; and to match other areas of development sparked by the federal program.

Agencies within our state government itself that are responsible for the development of urgently needed recreation programs also cannot continue their programs without substantial recourse to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. An outstanding example is the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area within the Thomas Jefferson National Forest. Another is the, as yet unconfirmed, program to create a similar recreation area of the Massanutten Mountain Range, to include the land between the two branches of the Shenandoah River in the great Valley of Virginia.

While Virginia has been slow to accept new programs in the past, the present program of outdoor recreational development has universal acclaim in Virginia at this time. It has been financed over the past two years by state appropriation, matched with federal funds. Six State Parks are well underway. Many other steps forward have been made by our Virginia Commission on Outdoor Recreation. To halt this program at this time due to a lack of matching funds by either the state or federal government would have disastrous psychological effects. Virginia's program is rolling with great momentum. It is essential that land for parks proposed be acquired promptly to avoid prohibitive costs later.