

My statement represents the views of Gov. Tom McCall of Oregon and Mr. Forrest Cooper, State liaison officer for the land and water conservation fund program in Oregon.

We heartily endorse the purpose of S. 1401 as introduced.

Oregon is one of the large, Far West States with relatively light population, but with over 50 percent of its land area owned and managed by the Federal Government. The State and local agencies in Oregon have long recognized the need for preserving our outdoor heritage. We have accomplished a great deal on our own, and have fully utilized what little Federal aid funds that have been made available to us. Our citizens are fully aware of the magnificent natural resources with which we are blessed, and more importantly, understand that now is the time to act before the opportunity is lost. Many of our citizens have come from the large urban areas of the East, the Midwest, and California, and they say to us "we moved to Oregon to get away from congestion, urban blight, dirty air and dirty water. Oregon is still clean and beautiful, with uncrowded beaches, with clear lakes and streams where we can take our families to camp and fish and swim." They say, "Don't let it happen to Oregon."

To say that the land and water conservation fund has been a shot in the arm to the outdoor recreation programs in Oregon is to put it mildly. It has done the job we believe Congress intended when the legislation was enacted in 1964. Comprehensive planning is underway and is being accepted. State and local agencies are buying key lands for outdoor recreation, and many needed facilities are being developed which would not doubt be delayed or shelved if it were not for the "carrot and stick" approach of the Federal program.

Since the program got underway, we have received requests for 181 individual projects totaling \$4,182,000. Of this total amount, 76 percent has been for land acquisition and 24 percent for development. We believe that this is just the beginning and that local government in particular is just now getting geared up to the program. Our most recent analysis of funding for outdoor recreation projects through 1975 indicates that State and local agencies could match at least \$30 million Federal-aid dollars for outdoor recreation projects if they were available. Under the present program we can expect only \$11,350,000. We wish to emphasize that Oregon not only recognizes the need to act immediately, but stands ready to utilize nearly three times as much funds as are now being made available. This picture is made even worse when the actual funds received are substantially less than our apportionment because of insufficient fund income.

We understand that the administration has endorsed this bill, but has recommended certain amendments regarding both the amount to be transferred and the split between the Federal agencies and the States.

It is our opinion that the findings of the Outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission regarding the "pivotal role of the States," which is the basis of the present 60-40 split, is sound and should not be changed. The place to provide recreation opportunities is where the people are and this can be best accomplished by State and local government.

We fully understand the plight of the several Federal agencies as they seek to secure key lands in the face of ever-spiraling land costs.