

However, their problem is no more severe or serious than that faced by the States and local government agencies. The costs of land have gone up everywhere, and while I cannot support the point at this time with sufficient facts, I'm convinced that it may well be even more serious at the local level. The problem of Federal land costs is certainly no basis for altering the present formula.

In conclusion, Oregon has been a leader in supporting and sustaining the land and water conservation fund program. We understand both our problems and opportunities and have made good use of what funds have been made available. More financial assistance now will accelerate our programs and in the long run, save the public many dollars. We support the purpose of S. 1401, urge your serious consideration of devoting as many dollars as possible to the program and oppose changing the present apportionment formula.

We would be doing a great disservice to the many persons and agencies who have made the fund a reality if we didn't make it clear that we appreciate the existing program and especially, the dedicated staff of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation who have done a magnificent job in working with the States and making the program the success it has been.

Mr. McClosky. I am Michael McClosky, recreation director of the Sierra Club. I would like to present my statement for the record.

Senator BURDICK. We will receive it without objection.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL McCLOSKEY, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR, THE SIERRA CLUB

Mr. McCloskey. Mr. Chairman, my name is Michael McCloskey. I am the conservation director of the Sierra Club (1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, Calif.) and am speaking for it here today. The Sierra Club is the largest outdoor club in the United States, with 60,000 members in all States of the Union. Since John Muir founded the club in 1892, the club has devoted itself to advancing programs to protect the natural scenic endowment of the United States. From its inception, the club has believed that the national park formula is one of the best this Nation has revised to protect its most significant natural areas.

It is because of our commitment to seeing the national park formula succeed in bringing protection to even more irreplaceable parts of America's landscape that we believe S. 1401 and S. 531 are so important. We strongly support the intent of these measures and congratulate the sponsors, Senator Henry Jackson and Senator Thomas Kuchel, for their leadership in seeking improved funding for our system of national parks and recreation areas. As the committee knows best of all, current funding is running far behind our existing commitments and is hopelessly inadequate to meet the needs for new authorizations.

It has been evident for some time that a new formula to finance land acquisition for our systems of national parks and recreation areas is necessary. The Congress obviously hoped that the land and water conservation fund would provide such a formula. While conservation groups strongly supported establishment of this fund, they did not do so with the understanding that it would be the only source of funding for new parks. We expected that direct appropriations would con-