

gram to preserve recreational facilities may seem to lose relative importance. However, when the great benefits the program can give, and the heavy future costs likely to be entailed if action is not taken now are considered, an increased financial commitment to these programs at this time is justified. Passage of S. 1401 and H.R. 8578 can fill a great need in providing adequate recreational facilities for our citizens and avoiding a critical shortage of these facilities in the future.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT E. SYNNESTVEDT, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

From the very beginning the waters of our country, have been preserved as belonging to the people, and their free use by the public has long been the established practice, in law and in fact.

Charging fees for the use of these waters violates this principle, annoys and harasses our citizens, and tends to curtail the economic advantages accruing from America's fastest growing outdoor family recreation—boating.

We therefore support Senate bill 2828.

STATEMENT OF ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI, CITIZENSHIP-LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, OIL, CHEMICAL & ATOMIC WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION

On behalf of our membership I am happy to endorse the objectives of S. 1401, which will provide additional financing for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

Our membership—like every other labor organization—is composed of thousands upon thousands of families who depend on the federal parks for their summertime outdoor recreation and vacations.

This committee knows that outdoor recreational space is at a premium. We are not keeping up with the demand for national parks. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has not been able to raise enough money to supply the funds which Congress has modestly authorized for new parks. It is my understanding that some \$400 million of new parks authorized by Congress are lacking a single penny of financing to bring them under the public domain.

S. 1401 will use for land acquisition some of the royalties which go into the United States Treasury from the continental oil shelf royalties. This is an excellent solution to a knotty problem. We need more park land. Congress has been unwilling to vote the money. The continental oil shelf royalties belong to the American public. What better way to use these royalties than by earmarking some of them for the national park system and other outdoor recreational programs of the federal government.

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH N. GILL, COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the most important source of federal funds which we in the State of Connecticut can utilize to assist us in purchasing areas for conservation and for outdoor recreation. The annual allocation of a portion of these monies to our State has averaged close to \$1 million since the inception of the Fund. This resource has been most welcome and beneficial to our Open Space acquisition program. However, studies recently completed under the Connecticut Interregional Planning Program indicate that an accelerated program of acquisition of land and water is vital within the next five to ten years if these are to be preserved at all. The cost of this stepped-up program will be at least \$50 million from local, state and federal sources during this brief period. In order to achieve our objectives, we will require significantly more Land and Water Conservation funds than we have received in the past—treble the present \$1 million annual allocation.

Discussions with the liaison officers of other states has brought out the fact that most of them are facing the same problems which we are encountering in Connecticut. They also believe that they must purchase more land and water soon before it is lost or priced out of reach.