

The success of our new \$400 million Next Step Program representing a blending of State, Federal and local funds is greatly dependent upon the availability of Federal funds to help meet the original projections for the Land and Water Conservation Fund allocations to the States.

In view of the above, I strongly urge your Committee to favorably report this bill.

Sincerely,

R. STEWART KILBORNE, *Commissioner.*

STATE PLANNING BOARD,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Harrisburg, February 6, 1968.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: We are pleased to recommend the enactment of S. 1401, amending the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

Our support of this bill is based on the following considerations:

1. It would allow, for a five-year period, additional sources of revenue for Federal and State land acquisition and development purposes.
2. It would facilitate the earlier acquisition of property, helping to deal with the land price escalation problem and a stretched-out rate of land acquisition due to lack of funds.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been a most useful program. It has served to stimulate and support state and local efforts in outdoor recreation planning, acquisition and support. With Pennsylvania's \$70 million PROJECT 70 program and the more recent \$500 million Land and Water Conservation and Reclamation Program, it has been instrumental in meeting the outdoor recreation needs of the Commonwealth.

We consider S. 1401 to be in the public interest and recommend its every consideration.

Very truly yours,

IRVING HAND, *Executive Director.*

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION,
Silver Spring, Md., January 31, 1968.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: This letter is written to indicate support for Senate Bill 1401 to increase the authorized income of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This Bill is of utmost importance to park jurisdictions throughout the country and especially to those concerned with the expansion of major metropolitan cities such as Washington, D.C.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is responsible for acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of a park system in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties covering a 1000 square mile area with a population of one million persons anticipated to develop within the next twenty years. Our present park program indicates a need within this period of time of public open space in the amount of 52,000 acres. The Commission has acquired approximately 20,000 acres. However, it will be most difficult to fulfill our Master Plan unless assistance is authorized by such Acts as the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Unless suitable and adequate funding is provided soon many potential public park and recreation areas will be seriously impaired or lost completely. I earnestly endorse Senate Bill 1401 for the hundreds of thousands of people living within the Maryland portion of the Metropolitan District of Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

JOHN P. HEWITT, *Director of Parks.*