

panion House Bill No. 8578. This bill is extremely important to the continued acquisition and development of badly needed outdoor recreation facilities in our state as well as across the nation.

Since the Land and Water Conservation Fund has fallen considerably short of the revenue level originally anticipated, many state and local agencies are now unable to utilize their funds as effectively as planned due to the fact that many of their programs were developed on the basis of a higher level of Federal support. Therefore, the passing of Senate Bill No. 1401 and House Bill No. 8578 is imperative if we are to accomplish our planned program to meet the rapidly increasing need of more Outdoor Recreation facilities for all our citizens.

In order for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to more adequately and rapidly meet these needs, it is most important that the bill be approved as originally written with annual receipts of \$700 million. Consequently, the reduction to the proposed administration ceiling of \$200 million would seriously endanger the future growth of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

In light of these circumstances, we urge your approval of Senate Bill No. 1401 as originally written and companion House Bill No. 8578.

Sincerely,

ROBERT D. RAISCH

(For John E. Mitchell, Liaison Officer, State of Indiana).

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
Madison, Wisc., February 1, 1968.

HON. H. M. JACKSON,

U.S. Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The purpose of this letter is to support your bill S. 1401 relative to increasing the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

We have found this program to be one of the greatest stimulants in the field of outdoor recreation that has ever come along. Local units of government previously without an acre of parkland are now planning, which we require, acquiring and developing recreational areas. Counties without recreational committees have now formed them and park commissioners have been hired.

In sharing this fund with local units of government, we ask that the county appoint a liaison officer that will represent all units of government in the county. On occasion these men have called joint meetings with intra-governmental units to plan for priority use of the fund, thus establishing inter-governmental coordination.

These examples are the more indirect benefits derived from the program. Direct values can be found in the preserving of a section of the Wolf River in a wilderness state, acceleration of state park acquisition and development and purchasing of shoreline frontage on Lake Michigan with 20 minutes time of downtown Milwaukee.

At this time we have submitted 223 projects to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, 176 of these are from county or local governmental units. Approval has been obtained on 206 of these amounting to \$3,454,730.00 out of a total allocation of \$4,823,940.00. By July 1, 1968, this balance will have been depleted and a backlog will exist.

This fund has been of tremendous value to us in Wisconsin, and it has been only within the last year that the state and local units of government have been able to budget for matching purposes and gear up to its potential. It is extremely important that the federal government meet its obligation as originally outlined now that the state and local governments have risen to the challenge.

I, therefore, urge speedy approval by the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee as the first step in obtaining passage of this legislation.

L. P. VOIGT, Secretary.