

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION,
Augusta, Maine, February 1, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: AS the State of Maine's liaison officer to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, by appointment of the Governor, I wish to express my state's support of Senate Bill S. 1401 which seeks to amend the Land & Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. I realize that you will receive many other supporting statements from state liaison officers for this legislation which has as its primary purpose to provide more funds to the federal and state agencies for furthering the cause of outdoor recreation. Therefore, I would like to stress what seems to me to be two of the principal reasons for increasing the revenues to the Land & Water Conservation Fund at the earliest possible date.

First of all, the very creation of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the establishment of federal aid to states and their public sub-divisions for the purposes of public outdoor recreation has stirred up a great deal of activity among the communities of Maine to establish conservation committees within their own governmental structure and to assume local responsibility for planning and developing many worthwhile local recreational projects. In a state that has such a vast acreage of undeveloped natural resources as Maine this problem is so great that it cannot be met by state action alone and, therefore, we have gone to great lengths to "stir up" this responsibility at the local level. The response has been terrific and right now in our state we have many more approved local applications for projects than we have federal matching dollars. If we don't find funds in the near future to keep up this level of local participation then the interest which we have generated will fail as project applications are held up for lack of matching money.

A second matter of urgency peculiar to Maine is that, generally speaking, we are a rural state with practically no lands to speak of in the public domain. Practically all of our forests and coastal shoreline are still in private ownership and still unspoiled for outdoor recreation use. As land gets scarce in other states, speculators are turning their efforts into buying up large tracts of real estate, particularly along our Maine coast, in anticipation of the ever increasing value of land for all uses including recreation. Unless we act fast, some of this prime shoreline will be lost forever to the developers. Our state has a very limited tax base and we can't move anywhere near fast enough without more federal aid. Maine people believe in assuming what they feel to be a reasonable share of this responsibility and two years ago voted to bond themselves for \$1½ million to match an equal amount of federal money to preserve the famous Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Our Legislature recently voted to ask Maine voters to make possible a \$4 million bond issue, which we hope can be matched with federal monies, to acquire significant areas of Maine's natural and scenic beauty so that future generations can enjoy to some degree the natural resource heritage that was passed on to our generation.

If the voters of Maine in November 1968 commit themselves to this program the money to match these funds at the federal level must be found in the Land & Water Conservation Fund and, therefore, it is most essential that the present formula for putting monies into this fund be amended as suggested in S. 1401 to augment the present system which certainly cannot produce the funds necessary to do the job at either the federal or state level.

Therefore, I most earnestly support the addition of revenues to the Fund as proposed under Section "D" and I would go along with those provisions which propose to divide the funds in the Land & Water Conservation Fund equally between the federal and state agencies.

Sincerely yours,

LAWRENCE STUART,

Director of State Parks, and State Liaison Officer to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

SOUTH CAROLINA RECREATION COMMISSION,
Columbia, S.C., February 5, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: This letter is in reference to Senate Bill 1401, pertaining to amending the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. May