

would not have been possible without the additional funds. Nevada has a large new population now making heavy inroads—by building or sightseeing—into Nevada's finest scenic areas. A longtime resident population has grown up with so much open space that it is not aware that without planning Nevada soon will not be able to obtain the lands she needs for the future. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has allowed us to obtain unspoiled lands at less cost than the poorer quality, higher priced lands we would have to consider a few years from now.

The land at Tahoe is a prime example. Land and water funds have made possible the purchasing of excellent beach and forest land in their natural state. A few years from now when we might have been able to consider the area, we would be fortunate if the landholdings were still intact or available at any cost.

Therefore I, as Chairman of the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Fund Co-ordinating Commission, most heartily support your efforts on behalf of SB 1401. Nevada with the encouragement of these funds has studied the state for the highest quality recreation sites, and we therefore suggest retaining the 60-40 relationship in favor of the states.

We hope your committee has passed SB 1401.

Sincerely,

DR. R. G. MILLER,

Chairman, Nevada Outdoor Recreation Fund Coordinating Commission.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,

February 9, 1968.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,

*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: This is to present the views of the American Farm Bureau Federation relative to S. 1401, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

The American Farm Bureau Federation does not support the enactment of legislation to divert additional federal revenues from the general fund to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, as proposed in S. 1401, or in the modified proposal presented by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, in order to finance an expanded land purchase program.

In support of this position we respectfully submit the following considerations:

1. We need not review the current fiscal situation. We believe it is imperative that federal expenditures be reduced substantially as an alternative to, or at least prior to, consideration of increases in federal income taxes. We believe we share the view of the majority of the people of the United States who are looking to the Congress to cut federal spending substantially.

2. The enactment of the legislation would reduce the effectiveness of Congressional review of budgets and spending policy. Included in Secretary Udall's statement was a revealing paragraph in which Secretary Udall said: "There are a number of approaches. One is to leave the Fund Act as is and supplement it by appropriations from the general funds of the Treasury. This is not favored by the Administration because the history of appropriations for Federal land acquisitions for recreation purposes prior to the Fund was dismally small." In other words, because Congress has been unwilling to appropriate funds of the desired size for land purchases, let us use a method whereby we will reduce effective scrutiny by the Congress of expenditures for this purpose. We, of course, recognize that money in the Land and Water Conservation Fund is also appropriated by Act of Congress. Nevertheless, the fact that the money is in the Fund tends to insulate appropriations thereof from the rigorous Congressional scrutiny and the appropriate attention to comparative priorities that would otherwise be given.

3. It should be noted that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is not the only source of federal funds for land purchase programs. Thus, the Department of Interior Press Release of February 5, 1968 says in part:

"Citing statistics gathered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Secretary Udall revealed that during 1967 some 1,715,000 acres of land and water were acquired for permanent public use in forest, park, open space, fish and game, and multi-purpose reservoir areas, compared with about 750,000 acres converted to urban and highway development.