

THE STATE OF KANSAS,
THE JOINT COUNCIL ON RECREATION,
Topeka, Kans., February 19, 1968.

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

DEAR SIR: On behalf of the Kansas Joint Council on Recreation, we recommend favorable consideration on S. 1401 (or H.R. 8578) to strengthen the revenues to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The past three years the Joint Council has approved 85 projects—13 land acquisition projects, 43 local development projects, and 29 state development projects. The total cost for these projects is \$5,476,218, and with \$2,738,109 being the Land and Water Conservation Fund share.

On the basis of the above, we find the Fund has stimulated both land acquisition and development that might not otherwise have been accomplished. On the basis of present applications, the total requested federal assistance is reaching nearly three times that which is presently apportioned to Kansas from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Thus, additional revenues which would be provided by S. 1401 (or H.R. 8578) will bring direct response in Kansas from the local communities and better serve the purposes and objectives promulgated in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

Yours very truly,

PAUL AYLWARD, *Chairman.*

RIVERS & HARBORS ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI,
February 3, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: As Executive Director-Secretary of the Pat Harrison Waterway District and President of the Mississippi Rivers and Harbors Association, I have been appointed by the Mississippi State Park System to be the spokesman for the State of Mississippi concerning Senate Bill 1401.

ENDORSEMENT OF BILL S. 1401

The State of Mississippi strongly endorses Bill S. 1401, entitled "To Amend Title I of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, and for Other Purposes". The state strongly supports both the objectives of the bill and the methods it provides for obtaining funds for attaining the objectives.

MISSISSIPPI'S INADEQUATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

At the present time Mississippi's recreational facilities are inadequate for the needs of Mississippians and cannot begin to provide Mississippi's share of attractions for tourists from across the nation although there is great potential for development if adequate financial resources become available.

Present facilities are too few in number and the few parks and other facilities available have not been developed to the minimum level needed to make them attractive to possible users. Furthermore, the present facilities are improperly distributed about the state. Most of them are more than fifty miles from major urbanized areas.

Bill S. 1401, by providing substantially increased funds quickly, would enable Mississippi to purchase large tracts near its rapidly growing urban areas. The movement of population from the rural to the urban areas in Mississippi has proceeded at a rapid pace since World War II, and is expected to continue. Thus, although desirable recreational sites are now available near the growing population centers, this condition cannot be expected to continue for more than a few years. Immediate acquisition will not only result in substantial savings, but will permit acquisition of areas with outstanding potential for development—areas that are not likely to be available a few years hence.

MISSISSIPPI'S INADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

In 1956 the state legislature established a State Parks Board. Since that year the number of state parks has increased substantially. Usage of these parks has