

areas. In line with recommendations of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, we suggested that where the Fund was used for land acquisition, this be accomplished in areas of heavy population concentration so as to make recreation facilities more accessible to a greater number of people.

Since the passage of the original Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (PL 88-578), a number of developments have evolved. First, the user fee part of the law has not been popular and to date less than 20 percent of anticipated revenue has been collected. While the Fund has been used for recreation planning and land acquisition on a state and municipal level, at the same time the Federal share has gone primarily into the acquisition of additional national park and national forest lands. Recreation facility development on these parks and forests progresses slowly, even though the use of the areas has increased greatly during the life of the Act. Another important point is that the legislation has been used as a device for the acquisition of many more national park areas and land acquisition prices have escalated tremendously in some of these. About \$500 million is already committed to this acquisition.

Western Forestry and Conservation Association opposes the amendments to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act contemplated in S. 1401 because these amendments earmark, in addition to the receipts already so designated, National Forest Miscellaneous Receipts which, if earmarked at all, should be designated for purposes related to the production of forest resources. We believe that each Federal land acquisition must be made after most careful study and with great restraint and that the appropriations process applied to individual cases in this area by the Congress provides this restraint. We further believe that the full recreational potential of lands already government-held should be realized before vast outlays are made to acquire additional private lands. If this bill is approved, we urge that it be amended to provide for development of existing recreational areas.

The Association respectfully requests that these remarks be made a part of the record of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee on S. 1401.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR M. ROBERTS, *Forest Counsel.*

WESTERN WOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION,
Portland, Oreg., February 23, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: Reference is made to S. 1401 on which you are holding hearings.

We are concerned with those aspects of S. 1401 which we feel would unnecessarily increase funds available for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and would also set up questionable innovations in federal land acquisition and management practices.

We oppose the earmarkings of Forest Service receipts and Interior Department's Mineral Leasing receipts from the Outer Continental Shelf lands for a use which is not directly controlled by the appropriation process of the Congress.

If the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 is amended at all such amendment should contain provision for developing existing recreational areas. As we have previously testified, a substantial portion of this fund should be used for the planning and development of recreational facilities on the many publicly owned sites that qualify for such treatment.

Since Congress has been most liberal in making monies available to the fund it would seem most inadvisable to authorize advance contractual authority to the Secretary of Interior as provided in S. 1401 even for the limited two year period. While this is intended to be a potential source of saving to the government, it may, on the other hand, pervert the appropriation process at a time when the public interest may require the use of our monetary resources more effectively elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

ERNEST L. KOLBE,
Director, Forestry Services.