

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.,  
*Fort Wayne, Ind., February 8, 1968.*

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building,  
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The Public Lands Committee of the Izaak Walton League of America strongly endorsed increased financing of the Land and Water Conservation Fund which was proposed in the previous session of Congress. Essentially similar proposals are now under consideration, and we hope this new expression of support may be entered in the record on S. 1401. This measure would provide approximately \$100,000,000 a year for the Fund over a five-year period, from Federal revenues realized under the Outer Continental Shelf Act of 1953.

Past sessions of Congress have authorized an important system of new national parks, seashores and lakeshores in recent years. While it is not entirely unprecedented that implementation sometimes falls short of authorization, I think it is a fair assessment to say that many of the recent authorizations are in jeopardy of almost total loss if ways are not found to increase funding, especially for acquisition.

It is hardly necessary to review the problems: rapidly increasing land values, rezoning of authorized lands placing them in enormously escalated price ranges, construction of various types on authorized lands which destroys the purposes for which they were authorized, local hardship problems and the community relations problems which attend uncertainties, and myriads of other problems.

Also, there is important work yet ahead, among the more important of them being the Redwoods National Park, Apostle Islands, North Cascades.

As one who has long dealt with these questions, I know you are fully aware of the needs, as is the full Committee which has favorably reported so many important parks, seashores and lakeshores. You are also aware that delays in funding will in a number of cases produce fatal results, and not merely commensurate delays.

Beyond the national projects, I think it is reasonable to say that the states and the counties face similar problems of shrinking outdoor resources and the loss of great plans. At all levels of participation in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, our country is faced with last chances, which in the absence of substantial funding increases will become lost chances.

We do hope that S. 1401 can be moved ahead at the earliest date to help fulfill already large national, state and local commitments, and to provide resources for important authorizations yet ahead.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS E. DUSTIN,  
*Chairman, Public Lands Committee.*

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE, INC.,  
*Roanoke, Va., January 31, 1968.*

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building,  
 Washington, D.C.*

The following has reference to your bill S. 1401, for which public hearings are scheduled on February 5, 1968.

The conservation-minded organization of which I am a part will strongly support this proposed legislation, and will urge support by all others who hold the hope for future preservation and extension of recreation areas in this country.

We are particularly pleased with that section of S. 1401 providing for the speedy acquisition of authorized property. Experience has taught only too well of ensuing price increase stimulation when the probability of a government purchase becomes common knowledge in any specified areas.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS H. CAMPBELL, *Vice Chairman.*