

Oxon Hill, Md., February 7, 1968.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Senate Interior Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: As a citizen's group of home and property owners we strongly protest the provisions of the proposed bill S. 1401, allocating \$200 million annually from the Outer Continental Shelf Lands receipts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the purpose of land acquisition by the Interior Department, as well as by the individual states.

The right of a family to own land is as basic as any of the rights which are inherent to our American way of life, and the condemnation of private property should be exercised *only* where thoroughly justified in the interests of the public good. Under Senate Bill 1401 the decision of vast condemnations would rest in the hands of an appointed official, responsible only to the President. Projects which have been repeatedly denied funds by Congress could be initiated at the whim ("discretion") of the Secretary of the Interior who would, in effect, become a monarch in the real estate and land speculation business.

The concept of the sell-back, lease-back provision included in this bill indicates not only a total lack of respect for private property rights, but also an admitted lack of need for some of the lands to be condemned. We feel that there is great injustice in a bill that would allow condemnation of a private property under the expressed intention of selling back or leasing back parcels to whomever, and for whatever price, the Interior Department deems appropriate. We have, however, no quarrel with the Interior Department, or any agency or individual, if land acquisition is restricted to fair purchases from willing sellers, or if, with public hearings, it is thoroughly justified to be in the public need. We do not believe that projected estimates of the future generations' needs for recreation facilities can justify the jeopardy and fear under which to-day's generation of property owners must live, wondering whose homes and lands will be the next to be swallowed up by the Interior Department.

We strongly urge that Senate Bill 1401 and its counterparts be drastically revised to provide protection for the private property owner, or that it be denied. We request that this protest be entered into the record.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. CHESLEY, Jr.,
Chairman, South Potomac Citizens' Council.

HUTCHINSON RECREATION COMMISSION,
Hutchinson, Kans., February 9, 1968.

Hon. HENRY JACKSON,
Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: The Hutchinson Recreation Commission at its February meeting voted unanimously in support of Amendment S-1401 and H.R. 8578 to the Land Water Conservation Bill. In view of increasing demands for recreation programs and resources on the local, state and national level, the Recreation Commission urges your support for this amendment.

Sincerely,

MARIETTA GOERING, *Chairman*,
ARTHUR J. COLLINS, *Commissioner*,
HOD HUMISTON, *Commissioner*,
FRED SHAFFER, Jr., *Commissioner*,
E. VICTOR WILSON, *Commissioner*.

CONCORD, N.H., February 2, 1968.

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

Urge passage of S. 1401. Since enactment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act New Hampshire has been apportioned \$2.3 million. Our needs for