

SEATTLE, WASH., February 2, 1968.

Re: S. 1401.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: As of December 31, 1967, I completed a three-year term as chairman of the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. During this period, I also served as liaison officer for the State for purposes of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Since it is not possible for me to appear in person at the hearings on S. 1401, which would amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, I would like to have this letter favoring changes in the Act made a part of the record.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been a real "shot in the arm" for outdoor recreation in the State of Washington. Even so, sufficient money has not been available soon enough to meet the growing demand. Accumulated requests for State and local matching grant assistance since the Fund became operative are much greater than funds available. More money is badly needed now. I also feel that it is important to stabilize the Fund so that each State will be able to program the revenues allocated to it each year. This is not now possible because yearly revenue into the Fund has not equaled the amounts appropriated.

The Fund was established to meet critical outdoor recreation deficiencies. It should, therefore, be within the intent of the Act to consider the State obligation rate as a major indicator of need. I suggest that Congressional consideration of S. 1401 should take into account the extent to which individual States, such as Washington, have obligated apportionments during the three-year period that the program has been in operation.

Between the time that the act became operative early in 1966 and January 12, 1968, \$2,871,152 from the Fund has been obligated in Washington State for 48 acquisition and development, and two planning projects. On the 50-50 Federal matching grant basis, this represents a total expenditure for Land and Water Conservation Fund assisted projects in the State of \$5,742,304.

During this 1965-68 period, the State's allocated share of the Fund was approximately \$3 million.

Much time and effort was spent in setting priorities as the money available from all sources could not cover all of the worthwhile requests received. Even as this was being accomplished, prime outdoor recreation land was disappearing before our eyes, land prices were spiraling, and development costs rising. Dollars not put to work for outdoor recreation today are losing purchasing power tomorrow.

After studying the suggested new revenue sources in S. 1401, I believe that the moneys accruing under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953, including funds held in escrow, offer the best source of relief at the present time. I would also like to suggest that S. 1401 be amended so that the Fund can be stabilized at at least \$400 million yearly, using only that portion of Outer Continental Shelf Lands revenue needed to reach the amount established by the amendment. Indeed, I believe use of the entire revenues of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands would be justified, but I suggest stabilizing the fund at \$400 million yearly as a compromise step.

In the west, emphasis should also be given to outdoor recreation developments on Federal areas convenient to urban complexes to relieve some of the pressure on States and local governments for more facilities.

I sincerely hope that provision can be made this year for increasing the Land and Water Conservation Fund so that it can meet the great need for outdoor recreation areas and facilities more realistically.

Respectfully,

MARVIN B. DURNING,
Attorney at Law.