

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND
CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,
Washington, D.C., March 4, 1968.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I wish to express our support for S. 1401, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 in order to provide additional revenues to acquire land for recreational purposes.

The Fund is falling short of expected collections from the \$7 recreation area stamp, the sale of certain federal property, and the motor boat fuel tax. Receipts into the Fund as of Jan. 31, 1968 were about \$290 million but Congress has appropriated some \$370 million since the Act was passed.

Furthermore, land speculation escalating land prices has thrown all previous estimates of financial requirements out of balance. For example, the original estimated cost of lands for the Point Reyes (Calif.) National Seashore Area has risen from \$14 million to \$57.5 million.

In 1966, according to Bureau of Land Management data, total receipts under the Minerals Leasing Act of 1920 were \$107 million, while those obtained from Outer Continental Shelf leasing were in excess of \$248 million.

Estimates by the Department of the Interior anticipate that the increasing tempo of offshore leasing could bring total proceeds from such activities to more than \$3 billion over the five-year program contemplated by S. 1401. We note, for example, that recent oil company bids for oil and gas leases off the California coast alone came to \$603 million.

We conclude, therefore, that the five-year program in this legislation would, in its final three years of operation, make available a large part of the money needed to secure for the American people the lands they must have in order to enjoy leisure with their families in America's out of doors.

Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate your bringing these views to the attention of the members of your Committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

ANDREW J. BIEMILLER.

Director, Department of Legislation and Chairman, AFL-CIO Staff Committee on Atomic Energy and Natural Resources.

ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB,
Roanoke, Va., February 6, 1968.

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

DEAR SIR: The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club takes great interest in your bill S 1401. We are part of a large private, non-profit organization, dedicated to the preservation of America's great out-of-doors.

I, as president of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club, have been authorized to notify you, that this organization does appreciate, and does fully endorse your bill S 1401.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. KENNETH P. FITZGERALD, *President.*

MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARK COMMISSION,
Milwaukee, Wis., February 2, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I have been informed that the Interior & Insular Affairs Committee of the United States Senate will be holding a hearing on your Bill (S. 1401), which proposes an increase in the authorized income of the Land & Water Conservation Fund.