

**The original documents are located in Box 37, “8/31/76 - Remarks Upon Signing Message to Congress Proposing a Bicentennial Land Heritage Program” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . . .

I AM SENDING TO THE CONGRESS TODAY THE BICENTENNIAL

LAND HERITAGE ACT. *This* MY PROPOSAL WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE

OUR PRESENT ACREAGE OF LAND FOR NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION

AREAS AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES;

-- IT WILL PROVIDE FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THESE NEW

LANDS TO MAKE THEM ACCESSIBLE AND ENJOYABLE;

-- IT WILL ENABLE US TO IMPROVE FACILITIES AND TO INCREASE

THE NUMBER OF DEDICATED PERSONNEL AT EXISTING NATIONAL PARKS;

-- IT WILL MAKE AVAILABLE 200 MILLION DOLLARS FOR  
URBAN PARKS, BRINGING THE BENEFITS OF NATURE TO THOSE WHO  
LIVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES, AND IT WILL ACCELERATE THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF PARKLANDS AND SANCTUARIES NOW DELAYED FOR  
LACK OF MANPOWER AND MONEY.

THIS NATIONAL COMMITMENT IS ONE OF THE SOUNDEST  
INVESTMENTS IN THE FUTURE OF AMERICA ~~THAT I CAN ENVISION.~~

WE MUST ACT NOW TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF TREASURES THAT  
CAN NEVER BE REPLACED FOR OURSELVES, FOR OUR CHILDREN AND  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS.

END OF TEXT