

The original documents are located in Box 38, “9/28/76 - Remarks Upon Signing S. 327: Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE LAND AND WATER

CONSERVATION FUND LEGISLATION

SEPTEMBER 28, 1976

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE ROSE GARDEN
THIS MORNING FOR A VERY IMPORTANT OCCASION.

LAST MONTH AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, I SET
A NATIONAL GOAL OF SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES, NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES
OF AMERICA AS OUR BICENTENNIAL PRESENT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

TODAY, WITH THE SIGNING OF LEGISLATION TO ENLARGE
THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND, WE TAKE THE FIRST
IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD THAT GOAL.

FEW, IF ANY, FEDERAL PROGRAMS HAVE PROVIDED MORE
OR BETTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAN THOSE FINANCED
THROUGH THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.

IN THE LAST TWELVE YEARS, SOME TWO BILLION DOLLARS
HAS BEEN CHanneled THROUGH THIS FUND FOR THE PURCHASE
AND DEVELOPMENT OF MILLIONS OF RECREATIONAL ACRES -- WHERE
AMERICANS CAN EXPLORE THE WONDER OF NATURE, TAKE PART
IN A VARIETY OF SPORTS ACTIVITIES, OR JUST RELAX AND GET
AWAY FROM IT ALL.

WITH THE INCREASED AUTHORIZATION WHICH THIS
LEGISLATION PROVIDES, MORE THAN SIX MILLION NEW ACRES
OF LAND WILL BE SET ASIDE FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES OVER
THE NEXT TWELVE YEARS.

IN ADDITION, THIS BILL WILL ESTABLISH AN HISTORIC
PRESERVATION FUND TO PROVIDE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE
ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF IMPORTANT HISTORIC SITES
THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE, THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN SPECIAL PRIDE IN THE LANDMARKS
OF OUR PAST.

THIS NEW FUND WILL ENSURE THAT THE AMERICANS WHO
CELEBRATE THE TRICENTENNIAL WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY AN EVEN
MORE COMPLETE CELEBRATION OF THEIR NATION'S HISTORY.

THERE ARE CERTAIN PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS IN THIS
BILL TO WHICH I OBJECT, AND FOR WHICH I WILL SEEK AMENDMENTS
IN SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION. BUT I WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND
ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSE THE BASIC THRUST AND PURPOSE OF
THIS LEGISLATION -- TO ENHANCE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, TO ENRICH
OUR TREASURE OF NATURAL BEAUTY AND PRESERVE IT AS OUR
HERITAGE TO COMING GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS.

I AM PLEASED AND PROUD TO SIGN THE BILL, S. 327, INTO LAW

AT THIS TIME.

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