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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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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