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ROBERT S. KERR MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

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HEARING  
BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NINETIETH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION  
ON

**H.R. 15822**

MARCH 25, 1968

**Serial NN**

Printed for the use of the Committee on Agriculture

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TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
TO ESTABLISH THE ROBERT S. KERR MEMORIAL  
ARBORETUM AND NATURE CENTER IN THE OUA-  
CHITA NATIONAL FOREST IN OKLAHOMA

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
*Washington, D.C.*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m., in room 1301, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C., Hon. W. R. Poage (chairman) presiding.

Present: Representatives Poage, Abernethy, Purcell, O'Neal, Vigorito, Dow, Nichols, Montgomery, Belcher, Teague of California, Dole, Hansen, Miller, Mathias, Mayne Zwach, Kleppe, and Myers.

Also present: Christine S. Gallagher, clerk; William C. Black, general counsel; L. T. Easley, staff consultant; and Fowler C. West, assistant staff consultant.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will please come to order.

We are going to hear testimony on the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center.

We have promised to hear Mr. Albert at 10:45. He has an 11:15 engagement downtown. So we are going to have to cut off anybody who is testifying at that time and let Mr. Albert be heard when he comes in. We hope that will be understood.

Our first witness will be Mr. Edward P. Cliff, Chief, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

We are delighted to have you here, Mr. Cliff.

Mr. Cliff has been a friend of this committee for a long time.

We are glad to have you up here. We will be glad to hear from you in connection with this memorial.

(H.R. 15822, introduced by Representatives Albert, Hammer-schmidt, and Edmondson, and the Department's report dated March 25, 1968, follow:)

[H.R. 15822, 90th Cong., second sess.]

A BILL To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma, and for other purposes

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That in order to preserve, develop, and make available to this and future generations the opportunity to advance themselves morally, intellectually, and spiritually by learning about nature and to promote, demonstrate, and stimulate interest in and knowledge of the management of forest lands under principles of multiple use and sustained yield and the development and progress of management of forest lands in America, the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized to establish the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center in the Ouachita National Forest. As soon as possible after this Act takes effect, the Secretary of Agriculture shall publish

notice of the designation thereof in the Federal Register, together with an appropriate legal description of the property. A map showing the location of the designated arboretum and center shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 2. The area designated as the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center shall be administered, protected, and developed within and as a part of the Ouachita National Forest by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to national forests in such manner as in his judgment will best provide for the purposes of this Act and to provide for such management, utilization, and disposal of the natural resources as in his judgment will promote or is compatible with and does not significantly impair the purposes for which the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center is established.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized to cooperate with and receive the cooperation of public and private agencies and organizations and individuals in the development, administration, and operation of the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to accept contributions and gifts to be used to further the purposes of this Act.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, D.C., March 25, 1968.

Hon. W. R. POAGE,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to your request of March 11, 1968, here is our report on H.R. 15822, "To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma, and for other purposes."

We recommend enactment of this bill.

H.R. 15822 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma. The boundaries of the area would be those shown on a map on file in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

The purpose of this legislation is to preserve, develop, and make available to this and future generations the opportunity to advance themselves morally, intellectually, and spiritually by learning about nature. It would also serve to stimulate interest and knowledge in multiple use-sustained yield management of our forest lands and in the development and progress of forest land management in America.

The Robert S. Kerr Arboretum and Nature Center would be within and a part of the Ouachita National Forest. The Secretary would administer, protect, and develop it in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forests in the manner he decides will best achieve the purposes of this bill and for which the Arboretum and Nature Center would be established.

H.R. 15822 would further authorize the Secretary, in developing and operating the Robert S. Kerr Arboretum and Nature Center, to cooperate with and receive the cooperation of public and private agencies and organizations, and individuals. He would be authorized to accept contributions and gifts to be used to further the purposes of the bill.

The Robert S. Kerr Arboretum and Nature Center would afford an excellent opportunity for the public to learn more about the interrelationship of living and non-living components of a natural environment. To our knowledge no similar facility exists in this part of our country where the mountains and the eastern plains come together. A nature trail through the whole area will be designed and constructed to enable handicapped people who must use wheel-chairs or cannot climb steep slopes to enjoy the beauty and other benefits of the area, also.

The location of the proposed Arboretum and Nature Center is almost midpoint on the Talimena Scenic Drive between Tahina, Oklahoma, and Mena, Arkansas. It is an area of about 350 acres within the Choctaw Ranger District of the Ouachita National Forest. The setting is a mountain basin with a variety of native flowers, shrubs, and other vegetation in a pine-hardwood forest type. Soil and other environmental conditions offer a favorable habitat for many additional varieties of vegetation and animal life.

Numerous native game and song birds inhabit the area year around, with other migratory species frequenting the area during certain seasons or periods. Here among the more common species of big game and other animals, such as the deer, fox, and squirrel, may range one of our rare and endangered wildlife species, the magnificent red wolf.

The Arboretum and Nature Center, when developed, will provide an outdoor educational center for an estimated 40,000 school-age children each year. As an adjunct to the Talimena Scenic Drive, the facility will attract visitors from over much of the Nation. Total visits annually to the area are expected to exceed 400,000 by 1976. Through its development and management, these people will be able to study and interpret plants, animals, birds, fish, and geological formations of the region in their natural condition or setting. In driving along the Talimena Scenic Drive, they can observe, on a broad scale, the natural resources, scientific knowledge and conservation objectives seen and learned in the Arboretum and Nature Center, thus creating an awareness of, and stimulating an interest in, sound principles of forest conservation.

The project has caught the attention of many individuals and private interests. They have expressed a desire to cooperate in its development because they see an unusual opportunity in this approach to advance the cause of conservation. Establishment of the Robert S. Kerr Arboretum and Nature Center will afford a practical way for these private interests to cooperate with the Department of Agriculture in the development and administration of this National Forest area for the purposes of the project. It will provide a desirable means of attracting, coordinating, and directing private gifts, donations, and other assistance to enhance the education, historical and aesthetic values of this important component of our natural resource heritage.

This recreational, educational complex composed of the proposed Arboretum and Nature Center and the Talimena Scenic Drive will be a fitting tribute to the late Senator Robert S. Kerr, who had a great personal interest in these mountains of eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas. He also had an interest in and a vision of the ways these mountains and their natural resources can help man advance himself morally, intellectually and spiritually. This interest was concomitant to his interest in the total natural resources of the area and the nation.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that it has no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN, *Secretary.*

#### STATEMENT OF EDWARD P. CLIFF, CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. CLIFF. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am pleased to appear here today to give my full support to this bill, H.R. 15822.

Shortly before he died, Senator Kerr and I discussed the establishment of an arboretum and nature center as a key adjunct to the proposed Talimena Scenic Drive. That road from Talihina, Okla., to Mena, Ark., through the Ouachita National Forest, is nearly complete, and its entire length will soon be open to the public. The Talimena Scenic Drive affords an excellent opportunity for the people of our Nation, particularly those in the Mississippi River Valley and Eastern Plains States, to enjoy the scenic and recreation resources of the Oklahoma-Arkansas mountain country.

I have a map here depicting this area.

The CHAIRMAN. I wonder if you gentlemen would mind moving over a little further, so we can move the map over this way for a better view? That is very fine. Thank you.

Mr. CLIFF. This map shows the scenic drive which runs through the Ouachita National Forest, in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. One terminus is Mena, Ark., and the other terminus is near Talihina, Okla.

This is the drive that was started in 1963 and will be completed this year. This highway received the enthusiastic support of Senator Kerr when he was a member of the Public Works Committee of the Senate. Before he died, he called me up to talk to him about his dream to have an arboretum to be built somewhere along this drive.

This arboretum site has been selected just midway along the highway in the mountain-valley segment and will be developed as a nature center and an arboretum to display native vegetation.

Senator Kerr saw the potential of this area for teaching natural resource conservation in a real-life, on-the-ground atmosphere. He envisioned the benefits that would accrue to students and others from being able to study and enjoy the native animal, bird, and plant life representative of the east Oklahoma-west Arkansas region in their natural environment and concentrated in one facility, the proposed arboretum and nature center. He recognized, also, the economic benefits to this depressed area of the scenic drive as complemented with an arboretum and nature center.

The proposed arboretum and nature center will be the nucleus from which visitors can radiate out to the many other attractions in a major complex of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. What they see and learn there will give them a keener awareness and understanding of the importance of the natural resources of the area and make their whole visit more enjoyable.

Unlike the usual arboretum which exhibits mostly exotic plant species, this one will use species native to the area. Some 120 or more plant species and varieties have already been cataloged for possible use in the arboretum. The visitors to this area will enjoy a well-balanced and rewarding outdoor experience. It will be a place where all ages can study and enjoy the flora, fauna, geology, history, and ecology of an important part of our country. A carefully planned and engineered trail will be constructed especially for the benefit of handicapped visitors. The arboretum and nature center will afford a significant opportunity for the public to gain a better understanding of natural resource conservation and the relationship of these natural resources to man and his environment.

The arboretum and nature center, as an adjunct to the Talimena Scenic Drive, should give a major economic boost to this rural mountain area. Before the turn of the century, we expect 1 million visitors along the scenic drive each year. An estimated 400,000 of them are expected to visit the arboretum and nature center. These visitors are expected to add over \$2,500,000 annually to the local economy.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I think it most appropriate that a development such as this become a memorial to the efforts and the dreams of the late Senator Robert S. Kerr.

Before I do conclude, there has been placed in your hands a brochure which describes this whole project in more detail. This brochure was published at no cost to the public by the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum Committee. This is a citizen's committee made up of representatives of chambers of commerce, service clubs, and some individuals from the surrounding communities, and there are other supporters in other parts of the State.

You have before you a copy of our report in which the Secretary of Agriculture endorses this bill. The report points out that we expect that there will be substantial private contributions to the financing of the project. There is considerable interest in it. We estimate that at least two-thirds of the cost of this development will come from private subscription.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. You anticipate that at least two-thirds of the cost of this project will come from private subscription. I do not understand that this bill provides for any authorization of appropriations. It does not provide for anything except for the acceptance of private contributions that you will get for these purposes; does it?

Mr. CLIFF. That is correct, Mr. Chairman. The Secretary of Agriculture already has authorization under his general authority to spend money for this kind of a development program. I think the drafters of the bill felt that additional authorization was not necessary.

The CHAIRMAN. I see. Well, now, what authority does he have? What is his present authority on this?

Mr. CLIFF. The general authority for the protection and management of national forests.

The CHAIRMAN. Of the national forests?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Tell us, if you would, about this. I am not entirely familiar with it—not at all familiar with it. I know that there is such a thing. Under what authority does this bill come?

Mr. CLIFF. The Talimena Scenic Drive is a part of the forest highway system. The forest highway system is financed under the authority of the Federal Highway Act. It is the special system of roads or highways of primary importance to States, counties, and communities within and adjacent to the national forests.

The CHAIRMAN. How much of that is national forests?

That is a relatively small part of it, is it not, that is national forests?

Mr. CLIFF. I am not sure that you can see the colors on the map, the shading. The shaded area is all national forest land. There are some private holdings in that area, but the bulk is national forest lands. On the scenic drive the rights-of-way have been acquired as national forest land. The public owns the entire right-of-way from this point here [indicating] to where it leaves national forest land over here [indicating].

The CHAIRMAN. I see.

Mr. CLIFF. So that the whole drive is on national forest lands, except one small section which goes through this State park here [indicating].

The CHAIRMAN. What is that in distance, 50 miles?

Mr. CLIFF. It is 55 miles in length. It was financed with forest highway funds and public land highway funds. It was 100 percent federally financed. It will be finished this year at a cost of approximately \$8,400,000.

The CHAIRMAN. And how much do you anticipate will be spent on the arboretum?

Mr. CLIFF. We estimate the planning and development cost for the arboretum and the nature center, which would be built over a period of 3 years or more is about \$1,500,000. The operating cost after construction is completed is estimated to be \$150,000 per year.

The CHAIRMAN. Will there be fees charged?

Mr. CLIFF. We have not made up our minds on that, that is for the use of the arboretum. This is still under consideration. We have not come to a conclusion yet.

The CHAIRMAN. You will not charge any fees for using the roadway?

Mr. CLIFF. No, there is no fee charged for the use of the scenic drive and there will be many scenic and recreation attractions to be enjoyed by visitors to this area.

The blue spots shown on the scenic drive show observation points, for instance, where you can go off the road and view the scenery.

The orange spots represent historic sites.

The green spots represent camp and picnic grounds.

There are many opportunities along this drive for general recreation.

We think that the arboretum will be a focal point for nature study. We are trying to hold things together so that people will have an opportunity to view it all.

The CHAIRMAN. I think this is a very fine thing. I am in favor of more of these scenic areas of this kind. I think now is a time to get them developed, so that the lands will not become so valuable that they will be out of reach, and we need them and have needed them for many years.

Mr. Miller?

Mr. MILLER. You mentioned the operating costs.

Perhaps you had in mind phase 1 and phase 2, when you spoke of approximately \$150,000 per year. I notice in the brochure you have passed out that we have a three-phase proposition as to operating costs which come to a quarter of a million dollars, \$247,000.

Mr. CLIFF. That is the total for the 3-year period, Mr. Miller.

Mr. MILLER. That is for a 3-year period?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir, and after the third year, after phase 3 is completed, we estimate that it will cost about \$150,000 a year to operate it. It will mean from four to six permanent people and, possibly, three or four seasonal employees to see that this is carried on. There will be maintenance costs as well.

Mr. MILLER. There must be something different than what shows here where you show phases 1, 2, and 3. Are we not speaking about phase 1?

Mr. CLIFF. No; we recognize that this has to be financed.

If we can get contributions and, as the budgetary situation permits, appropriation of public funds.

Mr. MILLER. When I speak of the operating costs, I notice it is "annually." This is in the brochure.

Mr. CLIFF. I would like to point out, Mr. Miller and Mr. Chairman, that these estimates that appear on page 10 of the brochure were made by the consulting firm that was employed by this citizens committee. These were made 2 years ago. The development costs and some of the operating costs are higher now by about 10 percent, so that the \$150,000 is a revised estimate of what the operating costs may be.

Mr. MILLER. Frankly, I do not understand when it says that the operating costs annually is \$38,000 for phase 1, \$82,000 for phase 2, \$127,000 for phase 3. Those total costs come to \$247,000 for the total operating costs annually. It so states here in the pamphlet.

The CHAIRMAN. That is per year.

Mr. CLIFF. It is per year.

It was built up on the assumption that phase 1 would be built in 1 year, phase 2 would be built in the second year, that phase 3 would be built in the third year, so that it would be an aggregate of \$247,000.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any other questions?

Mr. Purcell?

Mr. PURCELL. Just one question, please, sir.

When you build a road like this, Mr. Cliff, who retains jurisdiction and responsibility for its maintenance and law enforcement and things of that kind over that road?

Mr. CLIFF. The general situation, Mr. Purcell, is that it becomes a State road in the national forests, and the State retains the police power. As to this particular road, I am not sure just when or if the State will take it over.

I would like to ask Mr. Howlett, one of our engineers, just what the answer to that is.

Mr. Howlett informs me that this will be a State highway in both States and that they will assume the responsibility for maintaining it in their respective States, and they will retain the police power.

Mr. PURCELL. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. You just said that they would assume the responsibility of their maintenance?

Mr. CLIFF. Of the highway, yes, sir. That is the general situation on these forest highway systems.

The CHAIRMAN. You build the road and then they maintain it; is that it?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, that is correct. The road there is actually built under contracts supervised by the State highway departments.

The CHAIRMAN. But to Federal standards?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. From forest funds?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes; that is correct, public lands highway funds and forest highway funds.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Teague?

Mr. TEAGUE of California. The cost situation is not entirely clear to me. I understand that the capital outlay will be \$1,500,000, and you hope that two-thirds of that will be contributed by the public; is that correct?

Mr. CLIFF. That is correct.

Mr. TEAGUE of California. When all three phases are complete, what will the annual cost be then?

Mr. CLIFF. The annual cost is estimated to be \$150,000 per year after the development is completed.

Mr. TEAGUE of California. I thought Mr. Miller brought out a figure that indicated that it would be in the neighborhood of \$240,000 instead of \$150,000. I do not get that difference.

Mr. CLIFF. The \$247,000 that we were talking about is made up of the annual costs in the first development phase plus the operating costs during the second phase of development plus the operating costs in phase 3 for development, and they add up to \$247,000 on this table in the brochure.

Mr. TEAGUE of California. Regardless of what the table states, your testimony is that the annual cost will be in the neighborhood of \$150,000 when all three phases are completed: is that correct?

Mr. CLIFF. That is correct.

Mr. TEAGUE of California. Thank you, that is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any other questions?

If there are no other questions, Mr. Cliff, we are very much obliged to you and to your associates.

Mr. Albert will be here in about 15 minutes. The committee has another matter that it would like to take up at this time, and, if possible, in executive session. I do not want to be rude to anyone, but I wonder if our visitors might wait outside for just a few minutes while we dispose of a little matter while waiting for Mr. Albert.

You will be very welcome to come back in just a few moments.

(Whereupon, at 10:30 a.m., the committee retired into executive session, which proceedings were not reported.)

(Whereupon, at 10:45 a.m., the committee reconvened in open session, and the following occurred:)

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order. We are delighted, Mr. Albert, to have you with us. I know of very few returnees to this committee who are treated with applause when they arrive. It certainly is a pleasure to note that your former colleagues are glad to have you back with us. We are glad that you are back on a matter that concerns all of us.

We will be glad to have you testify as to southeastern Oklahoma.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. CARL ALBERT, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. ALBERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I hope that applause did not mean that I was coming back, but not as a member. I am sincerely glad to be back with the committee with whom I have had my closest association as a Member of Congress and on which I spent most of the years of my service in Congress. Since I left here I have been an itinerant committee member, going from place to place, a sort of committee hopper, and have served on several committees, but the Committee on Agriculture, so far as I am concerned, is still the committee of committees, and regardless of what some people might think, I think agriculture is still the most important business in the country and that this committee is the most important committee in the House. I say that from the bottom of my heart.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to appear here this morning in support of my bill, H.R. 15822, cosponsored by the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. Hammerschmidt, and the gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr. Edmondson. I am sorry I did not hear Mr. Cliff's testimony, because I know that he has more of the facts than I.

The CHAIRMAN. He did not hurt your chances any.

Mr. ALBERT. He did not? I just hope I do not cross him anywhere. I want us to be consistent, because I think we have something to be consistent about.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma. I am particularly appreciative of your kindness and consideration in so expeditiously scheduling this bill for consideration by your committee.

I appreciate the fact that the Department which has given this arboretum enthusiastic endorsement has cooperated in making the information available so quickly.

The proposed Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center would be a major facility within the recreational complex being developed in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

This forest is located, as you have already seen on the map, in eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas and contains some of the most beautiful scenery to be found in the country, although most people not living in the area are unaware of that fact. I might say, if it has not already been brought out, that it is one of the rarest mountain ranges in the United States. It is the remnants of the oldest known mountain range in the world. It is the only important mountain range in the United States that runs east and west. It has the highest peak between the Appalachians and the Rockies; namely, Rich Mountain, which is located on the Oklahoma-Arkansas line. The arboretum will be on the west edge of that famous peak. It is one of the most beautiful mountains in our section.

Access to this area in the Ouachita Mountains has been provided by construction within the Ouachita National Forest of the 55-mile-long Talimena Scenic Drive, a "skyline drive" running from Talihina, Okla., to Mena, Ark. It is a forest recreational highway authorized and constructed to further the development of the full potential of the public lands comprising the Ouachita National Forest, and to help satisfy the increasing demands for a better understanding of nature and to provide additional opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The Talimena Scenic Drive is the heart of the recreational complex being developed within the Ouachita National Forest. It will include such items, of course, as historical sites, natural areas, campgrounds and picnic areas, observation sites, and hiking trails. However, there are no existing nature centers located in mid-America, and many of us have felt, and feel strongly, that the Ouachita National Forest and the Talimena Scenic Drive is an ideal location for an arboretum and nature center to display the more than 100 varieties of native American trees and shrubs which abound in the area. I think that 67 specific species of trees have been identified in the immediate area, and some 30 additional shrub-type plants. The head of the department of forestry at Oklahoma State University told me that he had personally identified some 150 species of plants in this area, from the grasses to the tallest trees.

Those of us who knew him and worked with him—and I know I am joined in this by thousands of Oklahomans who knew and loved him—feel that such an arboretum and nature center would be a fitting and proper memorial for Oklahoma's late Senator, Robert S. Kerr. Bob Kerr was born near what was then Ada, Indian Territory, in September 1896, in a log cabin. This is on the western edge of the hill country of eastern Oklahoma. From these humble beginnings, he rose to be one of Oklahoma's outstanding private citizens and chairman of the board of one of the mightiest industrial corporations. He was elected Governor of Oklahoma in 1942 and served in that capacity from January 1943 to January 1947. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1948 and served continuously in that body until his death on January 1, 1963.

Throughout his life, both as a private citizen and as a public servant, Bob Kerr was a forceful and vocal advocate for conservation of all our natural resources. He was the leader in conserving and developing eastern Oklahoma's great water resources and in constructing the Arkansas River project, which will aid in developing other natural resources in this heartland of America. The Arkansas River is just north of this mountain range and is very close to it. He wrote a famous

book entitled "Land, Wood, and Water," in which he spoke eloquently of the importance of preserving and protecting the great heritage of our natural resources.

The arboretum and nature center proposed in the bill before you would be a fitting and lasting memorial to this great man. We propose to construct it in Le Flore County, near where he had his home during the last years of his life, just north of this area. It would be a great outdoor laboratory that would be open to both scholars and the casual visitor. Bob Kerr believed that we should develop our natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of all, and the center proposed in this bill would do just that—it would provide a beautiful planned setting for visitors to view the bounties of nature.

In addition, it is estimated there will be substantial social and economic benefits from a center of this kind. It is estimated that over 40,000 school-age children will use the facilities as an educational center each year: that yearly visits will total about 350,000; that visitors dollars added to the local economy will amount to more than \$2.5 million annually, and that based on an entrance fee of 25 cents for those over 12 years of age, returns to the arboretum itself will total over \$80,000 annually.

This is an operating forest and moneymaker. The Forest Service not only manages it, it sells timber which brings in revenue and provides a considerable amount of money in lieu of taxes for local governments.

As is pointed out in the departmental report on this bill, a suitable site has been selected for the arboretum and nature center which is to be located on a 350-acre tract of national forest land adjacent to the Talimena Scenic Drive, just east of U.S. Highway 259 in Le Flore County, Okla. The Government already owns all of this land.

The total development plan required includes the building complex—which involves an office, amphitheater, classroom, display areas, landscaping, planting of native vegetation, and demonstration areas, exhibits, a 30-acre lake, and picnic facilities. There will be hiking trails and drivethroughs for automobiles. A special feature of it will be a trail planned and designed to accommodate physically handicapped persons.

Since introducing this bill, I have been contacted by a number of persons in Oklahoma expressing support for it. I have a few letters which I would like to present, Mr. Chairman, for inclusion in the committee's record. Included is a letter from Dr. Charles J. Mankin, director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, in which he points out the geological importance of the Ouachita Mountains and how the proposed nature center would provide a vital source of information, an outdoor laboratory, for geologists from all over the world.

I would like to read a few excerpts from some of these letters. So far as I have been able to find out, every major enterprise in Oklahoma and in Arkansas interested in the out of doors, interested in plantlife, interested in animal life, interested in geology is an enthusiastic supporter of this project.

I first would like to read an abstract from a letter addressed to me by Dr. Mankin, director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey. We are very proud of our geology school at the University of Oklahoma, because Oklahoma geologists and petroleum engineers are in every major oilfield in the free world without a single exception. They have been in on the discovery of every major oilfield in the United States.

It is a great school, headed up by great men. And speaking of the geology of this area, the Humble Oil & Refining Co., which is the major producing arm of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, is so interested in this area that it has contributed to the University of Oklahoma Geology School an experiment station. Of course, they are in it for business—business alone, and it is to study, among other things, the formations of the Ouachita Mountains. They tell me that you can find outcroppings here that you would have to drill 50 or more miles in certain parts of the world to find the same strata.

The CHAIRMAN. Would you yield right there?

Mr. ALBERT. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to pay tribute to the people of Oklahoma. I think that the highway department is responsible for it in the Ouachita Mountains. I speak with reference to the signs they have put up. You will recall that north of Ardmore that there is a whole series of signs as to the outcrops of various formations.

Mr. ALBERT. In the Arbuckle Range.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; that is where it is. There are some of the oldest outcrops. They have put a sign up at each outcrop. I have never seen a State do it before. I think it is the best outdoor exposition of geology I have ever seen anywhere in the world.

Mr. ALBERT. That has been done in cooperation with the Geology Department of the University of Oklahoma. It has been an outdoor laboratory for many years. I went down there myself and looked at some of the outcrops and tried to identify some of the rocks as a part of my studies at the University of Oklahoma.

The greatest new gasfield in Oklahoma—and I suppose in the Nation—has been developed just over the mountains north of the Ouachita National Forest, in Latimer and Le Flore Counties, Okla.

As I have said, Humble has built an experiment station and has given it to the University of Oklahoma, and Humble is not an Oklahoma institution. It has its headquarters in Houston, Tex. It has built this for the University of Oklahoma Geology School. The president of Humble and his immediate predecessors were both from Oklahoma, but that had nothing whatever to do with their locating this laboratory in my State. I would like to read a few excerpts from Dr. Mankin's letter. Dr. Mankin is the head of the Geology Department of the University of Oklahoma and the head of the geological survey. He says:

The pending legislation concerning the establishment of an arboretum and nature center in the Ouachita Mountains of Southeastern Oklahoma is of particular importance to those interested in the earth and botanical sciences. Because of my interest in the earth sciences, I will confine my remarks to that aspect.

The Ouachita Mountains of Southeastern Oklahoma and Western Arkansas are an exposed portion of a mountain range that once extended an estimated distance of 1,300 miles from Northern Mexico to Alabama. The extent of this range ranks it among the major geologic structures of the world. Geologic events have led to the erosion and burial of this structure so that today only about 275 miles of its length can be seen at the surface. Almost all of this exposure is in the Ouachita Mountains, of which about 100 miles is in Oklahoma. The Ouachitas are therefore critically important to the study of the geologic history of North America and some of the fundamental problems of geology in general. The area is frequently visited by geologists from all parts of the world; its structural features are similar to the Alps and Carpathians, and, for this reason, are of particular interest to European scientists. A display of geologic and physiographic maps and cross sections at this center would provide a focal point for visitors and students of the earth sciences in their studies of this area.

Some of the formations exposed in the Ouachita Mountains contain abundant fossil plants. Specimens collected from these formations are contained in natural history museums throughout the world. Numerous paleobotanists have studied these fossil plants and their work has brought about a better understanding of the geologic history of the Midcontinent region of the United States. Exhibits of these fossil plants would materially add to the importance of this center.

To sum up the importance of this project, I wish to point out the value of this center to students in the earth sciences. Colleges and universities located within the State of Oklahoma and in neighboring states could make valuable use of such a center as a focal point for field trips and independent study programs. For example, the School of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Oklahoma would be able to make extensive use of this facility in its undergraduate and graduate programs. I know that the alumni of this department (more than forty-four hundred geologists) would immediately recognize the importance of this project and would strongly support its approval.

I hope this information will prove helpful in obtaining support for the passage of the bill to establish the arboretum and nature center. The School of Geology and Geophysics and the Oklahoma Geological Survey strongly support the idea and are ready to assist in its development. Please feel free to call on me for whatever additional assistance I may be able to provide.

Also included is a letter from Dr. J. Lamar Teate, assistant professor of forestry at Oklahoma State University, in which he expressed his view that the proposed arboretum will be of significant value:

I am writing this letter to urge your support for the establishment and maintenance of the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum on the Ouachita National Forest here in Oklahoma. Since I teach dendrology in the Department of Forestry at O.S.U., I am particularly interested in this project. I believe the people of Oklahoma have only recently recognized the value of the Ouachita National Forest to our state. The establishment of the arboretum will, in my opinion, be of significant value to the people at large and in particular to the institution of higher learning here in Oklahoma. I encourage you to support this measure.

Also, a letter from Dr. John E. Thomas, professor and head of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oklahoma State University, in which he says: "The Kerr Arboretum and Nature Center would be a valuable addition to our overall natural science teaching programs at all stages of education." And I have additional letters supporting this project.

I would like to quote from one.

I am writing in regard to the proposed Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center to be located in eastern Oklahoma.

This area, of some 350 acres, lying between Rich Mountain and Winding Stair Mountain and next to the new Talimena Scenic Drive is ideal for such a project. There are already some 65 species of trees native to the area. This part of the United States has needed this type of a facility for many years. It would serve students, nature lovers, and those who just enjoy being out-of-doors, from many states. The area would be readily accessible from north-south and east-west highways.

There would be foot trails, roads, and trails for the handicapped, also picnic and rest facilities.

Mr. Chairman, let me again thank you and the members of the committee for your consideration in hearing this bill at this time. I believe the memorial arboretum and nature center proposed by H.R. 15822 will be of great benefit not only to the people of Oklahoma and Arkansas but to the people of the entire Nation. It will provide a setting in which visitors from across the country, and indeed from throughout the world, can view in a planned and designed and natural setting the many varieties of flora abundant in mid-America and in the Ouachita National Forest. As one of my correspondents who has written me about this bill has said, "It would serve students,

nature lovers, and those who just enjoy being out of doors, from many States."

I sincerely hope that you approve of this proposed legislation and that you will see fit to order the bill reported for the consideration of the House.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the letters to which you have referred and from which you have quoted, will be made a part of the record in full at this point.

(The letters referred to follow:)

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA,  
Norman, Okla. March 15, 1968.

HON. CARL ALBERT,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. ALBERT: The pending legislation concerning the establishment of an arboretum and nature center in the Ouachita Mountains of southeastern Oklahoma is of particular importance to those interested in the earth and botanical sciences. Because of my interest in the earth sciences, I will confine my remarks to that aspect.

The Ouachita Mountains of southeastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas are an exposed portion of a mountain range that once extended an estimated distance of 1,300 miles from northern Mexico to Alabama. The extent of this range ranks it among the major geological structures of the world. Geologic events have led to the erosion and burial of this structure so that today only about 275 miles of its length can be seen at the surface. Almost all of this exposure is in the Ouachita Mountains, of which about 100 miles is in Oklahoma. The Ouachitas are therefore critically important to the study of the geologic history of North America and some of the fundamental problems of geology in general. The area is frequently visited by geologists from all parts of the world; its structural features are similar to the Alps and Carpathians, and, for this reason, are of particular interest to European scientists. A display of geologic and physiographic maps and cross sections at this center would provide a focal point for visitors and students of the earth sciences in their studies of this area.

Some of the formations exposed in the Ouachita Mountains contain abundant fossil plants. Specimens collected from these formations are contained in natural history museums throughout the world. Numerous paleobotanists have studied these fossil plants and their work has brought about a better understanding of the geologic history of the Midcontinent region of the United States. Exhibits of these fossil plants would materially add to the importance of this center.

To sum up the importance of this project, I wish to point out the value of this center to students in the earth sciences. Colleges and universities located within the State of Oklahoma and in neighboring states could make valuable use of such a center as a focal point for field trips and independent study programs. For example, the School of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Oklahoma would be able to make extensive use of this facility in its undergraduate and graduate programs. I know that the alumni of this department (more than forty-four hundred geologists) would immediately recognize the importance of this project and would strongly support its approval.

I hope this information will prove helpful in obtaining support for the passage of the bill to establish the arboretum and nature center. The School of Geology and Geophysics and the Oklahoma Geological Survey strongly support the idea and are ready to assist in its development. Please feel free to call on me for whatever additional assistance I may be able to provide.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES J. MANKIN, *Director.*

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
*Oklahoma City, Okla., March 15, 1968.*

CARL ALBERT,  
*Member of Congress, Third District of Oklahoma,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. ALBERT: I am writing in regard to the proposed Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center to be located in eastern Oklahoma.

This area, of some 350 acres, lying between Rich Mountain and Winding Stair Mountain and next to the new Talimena Scenic Drive is ideal for such a project. There are already some 65 species of trees native to the area. This part of the United States has needed this type of a facility for many years. It would serve students, nature lovers, and those who just enjoy being out-of-doors, from many states. The area would be readily accessible from north-south and east-west highways.

There would be foot trails, roads, and trails for the handicapped, also picnic and rest facilities.

With the great need for preserving natural areas for this and future generations it is my sincere belief that this project would be of great benefit for many thousands each year. The fact that additional trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses would be continually added would increase its value and attract people back time after time.

I sincerely hope that this project can be given top priority this year. The facility will attract a considerable number of tourists and help greatly in improving the economic condition of a large area.

Very truly yours,

DONALD E. STAUFFER, *Director.*

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, STILLWATER,  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY,  
March 15, 1968.

HON. CARL ALBERT,  
*Congressman from the Third District, Oklahoma,  
Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I am writing this letter to urge your support for the establishment and maintenance of the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum on the Ouachita National Forest here in Oklahoma. Since I teach dendrology in the Department of Forestry at O.S.U., I am particularly interested in this project. I believe the people of Oklahoma have only recently recognized the value of the Ouachita National Forest to our state. The establishment of the arboretum will, in my opinion, be of significant value to the people at large and in particular to the institution of higher learning here in Oklahoma. I encourage you to support this measure.

Sincerely,

J. LAMAR TEATE,  
*Assistant Professor.*

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, STILLWATER,  
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY,  
March 14, 1968.

HON. CARL ALBERT,  
*House of Representatives,  
U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. ALBERT: As a citizen of Oklahoma as well as a biological scientist I should like to urge your support for the measures to develop the Talimena Parkway and the Kerr Arboretum.

The Kerr Arboretum and Nature Center would be a valuable addition to our overall natural science teaching programs at all stages of education. I can visualize classes from secondary schools as well as colleges using these as valuable learning tools. As a botanist the diversified flora of eastern Oklahoma has always fascinated me and this Arboretum would permit many people to actually become acquainted with this flora. We here at the University would hope to become involved in the planning and developing of this Arboretum if it becomes a reality.

Aside from the direct educational value this drive and Arboretum would be of great interest to all citizens who just like to be out-of-doors.

Again I would request that you strongly support this enterprise as I feel that it will be an extremely valuable public asset.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN E. THOMAS,  
*Professor and Head.*

Mr. ALBERT. Another reason that I want this bill enacted is that we are acquiring, and doing the best we can to get contributions for as much of this work as we possible can get. We hope that friends of Senator Kerr and various interested industries in the development of this area will want to help out. We need an authorization; we need the planning money. Local people have already started collecting money. Here is an article from the Daily Oklahoman, date lined Pateau, Okla., county seat of the county in which this is located, and one of the poorer counties in Oklahoma pointing out that local communities have raised \$5,000 with which to help prepare this brochure and other data connected with this in advertising this project.

I think it is a worthy project. I hope that you will give it such consideration as you believe it deserves.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. We are delighted to have had you here with us. We know that you have an appointment downtown. We would like to have you here the rest of the morning, but that is impossible. We are glad to have had you.

Mr. ALBERT. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there anyone else to be heard on this legislation, H.R. 15822? If not, that closes the proceedings on this bill.

(Whereupon, at 11:10 a.m., the committee proceeded to the consideration of other matters.)



in August. Another reason that I want this bill enacted is that we are working, and using the best we can to get contributions for the amount of the bill, as far as possible. We are not at all certain of the amount of the bill, but we are sure that the development of this bill will be a great help to the people of the State. We are sure that the people of the State will be glad to see this bill enacted. We are sure that the people of the State will be glad to see this bill enacted. We are sure that the people of the State will be glad to see this bill enacted.

I think it is a very good bill, and I think it is a very good bill. I think it is a very good bill, and I think it is a very good bill. I think it is a very good bill, and I think it is a very good bill.

The Chairman: We are delighted to have had you here with us. We know that you have an appointment for next week, but we are glad to have you here for the rest of the morning, but that is impossible. We are glad to have had you.

Mr. Atwater: Thank you. The Chairman: Is there anything else to be heard on this bill? If not, the bill rises. The Chairman: The bill rises. The Chairman: The bill rises. The Chairman: The bill rises.